Daily Report

Latin America

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Cuba

Soviet Visits Cienfuegos Nuclear Plant

FL200347 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Vladimir Kamentsev, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers and president of the Joint Cuban-Soviet Intergovernmental Commission, has visited projects under construction in Cienfuegos. The projects are being built with the cooperation of the two countries. At the nuclear power plant, the Soviet official and the delegation he heads discussed with their Cuban counterparts matters related to technical assistance and technological supplies for the next construction stages of this plant. The first nuclear reactor at the plant should begin operating in early 1990.

Kamentsev also visited the Cienfuegos oil refinery project. There, he was thoroughly briefed on the present structure of the national petrochemical industry and its outlook for the next few years. It was reported that the Cienfuegos refinery is currently 80 percent installed and that, when its first stage is completed in 2 years, it will be capable of processing 3 million tons of crude a year.

Brazil's Sodre Stresses Cuba's Role in Region

FL201746 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] The Brazilian Government has reiterated its demand for Cuba's complete participation in Latin American integration.

The statement was made by Brazilian Foreign Minister Roberto de Abreu Sodre at a dinner held for his Cuban counterpart, Isidoro Malmierca.

Sodre said Latin American countries cannot ignore the role that Cuba's vitality and potential can play in expanding the levels of trade and in complementing the region.

In another part of his speech, the Brazilian minister said Malmierca's visit expressly demonstrates the level of maturity and the constructive spirit of relations between the two countries, as well as the importance of a realistic dialogue despite differences in political or economic ideas.

Discusses Debt, Region

FL201923 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Cuba reiterated its opinion yesterday during talks with the Brazilian Government that because of the foreign debt's size, origin, and illegal interest rates, it is not only unpayable, it is immoral and practically uncollectable.

Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca made these remarks after listening to his counterpart, Roberto de Abreu Sodre, explain the evolution of Brazil's foreign debt.

Sodre said President Fidel Castro is right when he says high interest rates and the creditors unwillingness to adopt new formulas are like putting out a fire with gasoline.

In their talks on Latin America, Brazil expressed concern with the political and unstable situation in Haiti.

Although there were subtle differences between them, the two parties agreed on matters related to Central America and the disarmament policy.

The two countries will sign an agreement today to regulate their strong cultural exchange. This will be the last official act of the Cuban foreign minister's 2-day visit to Brazil.

Reagan Turns Back on Nicaraguan Achievements

FL202152 Havana Tele-Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] President Ronald Reagan's decision to authorize the CIA to resume military aid to the Nicaraguan contras sharply contrasts with the peace efforts of the Central American presidents in Costa Rica. The President argued in favor of his decision before Congress following an administration agreement to stop supplying arms to the Somozists during the week that the five Central American presidents held talks in Costa Rica to examine the peace plan signed in August.

In order to justify the resumption of arms deliveries to the contras, the American President argued that without the pressure exerted by a strong democratic resistance in Nicaragua, the Sandinists will not change their actions and keep the promises they have repeatedly made and broken since 1979.

Reagan is turning his back on Nicaragua's achievements since the revolutionary triumph and paying no attention to the people's support for the Sandinist government. Reagan's aggressive decision takes place after Managua announced it would release political prisoners, end the state of emergency, and open talks with the contras concerning a cease-fire. The position of force assumed by the U.S. Administration, which runs counter to the peace efforts in Central America, has been criticized by U.S. congressmen.

Caricom

Area Opposition Parties on Haitian Elections

FL182322 Bridgetown CANA in English 2104 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, Jan 18, CANA—Following is the full text of the statement on Haiti issued here Sunday following a meeting of Scope, the Standing Committee of Opposition Parties in the Eastern Caribbean.

We regard the Heywood's statement made by the Caricom/Caribbean leaders as a shameful attack on the democratic rights and aspirations of the people of Haiti, and an unprincipled, gross and shocking repudiation of the Commonwealth Caribbean's deep-rooted commitment to free and fair elections. We send a clear signal to the people of Haiti that we disassociate ourselves from the content and spirit of the Heywood statement.

Scope is of the view that the events of Sunday January 17, 1988 make a farce of democracy since they represent not elections by popular power but selections by military terror, and as such any regime resulting from this charade should be utterly rejected.

Therefore, Scope calls on the heads of government of Caricom to suspend Haiti's observer status. At the same time we applaud the free and fair democratic elections in Suriname and call for its granting of full observer status and its consideration for future integration into membership of Caricom.

Scope is prepared to hold meetings with the committed democratic forces in Haiti and to assist in mounting national, regional, and international campaigns in the interests of the Haitian people, popular power, and of genuine democracy in Haiti.

Above all, Scope pledges its full support to the democratic process which will give the people of Haiti their first opportunity to overcome the consequences of 30 years of Duvalier tyranny and Tonton Macoute terrorism. (end of text)

Haiti

Louis Dejoie Reportedly Arrested at Airport

FL202035 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1900 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Monitored in progress]

[Text]...Louis Dejoie II, from the National Agricultural and Industrial Party [PAIN], returned to Port-au-Prince today on the Air France flight after a long trip to Europe and the United States.

Upon arrival, Mr Dejoie was detained at the airport. He has been at the airport in one of the rooms there since 1230. There are many journalists at the airport but no one has as yet been allowed to approach the place where Mr Dejoie is being held and no one knows why he has been under detention for approximately 1 and 1/2 hours. Our reporter is on the scene.

[Reporter]...is confirmed. Mr Louis Dejoie, leader of the PAIN and a presidential candidate in the aborted elections of 29 November arrived in Port-au-Prince at approximately noon today aboard the Air France flight from Puerto Rico after a stay [words indistinct].

Several witnesses, among them Mr (Charles Millery), who is a member of the PAIN, have affirmed that Dejoie was detained by the airport military authorities upon deplaning. This report has been confirmed by certain airport employees. Here are the statements of Mr (Millery).

[Begin recording] [(Millery)] I tell you he arrived. I just told you that. He got off the plane. I saw him as he went into immigration. They took all the information and then they took him into the diplomatic waiting room.

[Unidentified reporter] And he is still there?

[(Millery)] Up to the present. They are waiting for the journalists to go away so they can take him away, take him to the barracks [not further identified], I guess, since those who came were from the barracks.

[Reporter] What is he being charged with?

[(Millery)] I was told there was a warrant for his arrest. And this has been said for days.

[Reporter] An arrest warrant or...?

[(Millery) interrupting] An arrest warrant! Arrest! [end recording]

[Reporter] There are numerous foreign and Haitian journalists at the airport at present waiting for Mr Dejoie to come out. According to certain sources, Mr Dejoie has been served with an arrest warrant as you heard Mr (Millery) say. Journalists on the scene have not been able to verify this as yet.

But what is certain is that Louis Dejoie arrived from Puerto Rico today on Air France and that he has not been able to leave the airport. He has reportedly been detained by airport authorities.

This is Mobile Unit 18, from Mais Gate Airport [in Port-au-Prince]

Groups Demand Release

FL202235 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 2055 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Louis Dejoie, leader of PAIN, is still under detention at Mais Gate Airport.

According to our reporters on the scene, journalists and police equipped with antiriot gear are grouped around the airport.

Meanwhile, the residents of Delmas and the Autonomous Central of Haitian Workers have demanded, in news releases, the unconditional and immediate release of Mr Louis Dejoie.

Claude Interviewed on Current CED Position

FL201510 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] There are two groups of people talking about the elections: those who participated in them and those who did not.

Among those who did not, we interviewed Haitian Christian Democratic Party [PDCH] leader Sylvio Claude.

Claude told us there had been no elections on 17 January, that there had been an appointment.

Regarding other leaders who might want to join the Committee for Democratic Agreement [CED], Claude was of the opinion that the CED will allow no one to come sully it. He also spoke of having approached National Labor Party [PNT] leader Thomas Desulme to have him join the four-leader front.

Regarding Haiti's political future, Reverend Claude said it is too early to (?give an opinion) as to what is going to happen, but that the CED will create opposition until they obstruct the government the authorities might want to put into power.

[Claude, changing between Creole and French] [Passage omitted] "For me, yesterday [as heard] was a masquerade. It was an appointment. And they are so troubled that they can't decide who to appoint. So, the situation is serious. [passage omitted]

"So you can see that these candidates are fighting among themselves. As for [Alphonse] Lahens, he, too, is furious. And, out of respect for truth, it must be said he was rather courageous to come out and say that the opposition had been right, that we four had been right to not participate in this masquerade. He had enough courage to admit the truth. He said openly that we (?and Theagene) had been right and that serious people should not participate in such a masquerade.

"So, they are fighting among themselves. I certainly cannot call this an election.

"You just spoke of very little participation. Again, Theagene affirmed that there was 0.2 percent participation. Theagene said this, 0.2 percent participation! So I don't understand Gilbert's remarks [passage omitted]."

[Reporter] "Pastor Claude, that means the opposition is expanding, doesn't it? If Manigat were to come to power, the opposition would broaden. Would you people be willing to accept these men who have said their mea culpa's, or who have expressed their opposition to the elections, like the ones you just mentioned: Theagene, Gregoire Eugene, and the MOP's [Movement for the Organization of the Country] man?"

[Claude] "When the enemy has enough courage to admit that we are on the right path, we will not let people come sully us."

[Reporter] "Do you think it might be strategy on the part of the people who lost in the elections, tactics they might employ, to join the opposition in order to divide it? Because, for example, there have been no fissures since you four got together?"

[Claude] "Thank God, there are no cracks. There are little things we don't agree on, but you know that when people come together in a concensus, when there is a great cause, a great joint effort, everyone tries to make concessions, sacrifices, in order to achieve what they need to be done. And thank God, I don't know about later down the line, but right now, we four are, frankly, almost bonded frankly. That is beginning to astonish the whole world. It's as if when Sylvio talks, it were Bazin talking; and when Bazin talks, it's as if Gourgue were talking, and so forth. [passage omitted]

"I don't think anyone could split us. And of course, if someone like that were to come to us, we would certainly be watching him. He would not be allowed to do anything to destroy that unity, which is beginning to be so solid."

[Reporter] "Do you people have any intentions of approaching any other leaders who have taken stands? Has anyone like, for example, Thomas Desulme or [Francois] Latortue shown a desire?"

[Claude] "Sure. I myself have approached Thomas Desulme. I am telling you this myself. There is no need to hide this because we need to expand. I have approached him because, first of all, he has already shown that he leans in our direction. There is no reason to abandon someone who wants to go in the same direction as we do."

[Reporter] "And at what point are you?"

[Claude] "Well, things are not settled yet, but it looks as if there is hope. [passage omitted]"

Bazin on Future Plans

FL201610 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Interview with Marc Bazin by unidentified journalist, date and place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Bazin] Saturday's strike, which the entire civilian population strongly supported, demonstrated people were determined not to get involved with that sham election and on Sunday, the

Haitian people spoke. How? By refusing to declare themselves. The Haitian people stayed home, didn't go out. They showed they would not fall into the trap.

So you have an election to allegedly establish a country's new government and you have some 5 to 7 percent of the population voting. [passage omitted]

So that election is a sham, an election the people don't believe in. And any government, or any president, that thinks he can come out of an election like that and run the country will receive no respect or trust from the country and, consequently, will have no legitimacy. [passage omitted]

[Reporter] While you are on the subject of the president of the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP], Mr Jean Gilbert, he made a statement to the Voice of America in which he said he had knocked out the opposition. What do you think of this?

[Bazin] Yes, precisely. I didn't know he had said that but he called us cadavers, and all kinds of other things. Imagine! A man who is president of the election council and you go out and say that you knocked out the opposition!

The least one might expect from the election council is for it to be independent or, if not independent, at least for it to retain a certain level of verbal decency. So this shows you clearly that they weren't even hiding their hands in this election. It was something the government did to put its own candidate in power. It put in its own election council. And the election council was in the battle with it since they knocked us out, although we were not even candidates.

So in my opinion, this served to reveal to everyone the true nature of the elections just held. In reference to the CED and the civilian society, we are going to articulate our position with the civilian society in a still closer manner. We reject these elections. We ask that they be annulled, because it is obvious they constitute a national scandal. (?It is embarassing, before the entire world) to have Jamaica and Gallimore come and tell us: Yes, Manigat should be your president, and so forth.

All this constitutes frivolous behavior and I hope everyone regains their senses. I hope they are going to annul these elections so we can, finally, see what kind of solution to the crisis we can come up with.

[Reporter] Mr Bazin, can you tell me about the CED's position regarding Haiti's political future. What prospects do you see, exactly?

[Bazin] Well, we are going to meet to see if we can hold a news conference perhaps Wednesday. We are going to issue a joint communique very soon. You will probably get it by this evening. Basically, we ask that the elections be annulled because they do not correspond to the desires of the people. We showed, Saturday and Sunday, that the true forces in the country are the democratic forces.

Our success is not the success of Marc Bazin, Gerard Gourgue, or Sylvio Claude. It is democracy's success, the success of those struggling for justice and progress. We are waiting for Dejoie to come back from his mission, so we can articulate all the plans we have, so that we can proceed.

[Reporter] If a government resulting from these elections actually comes to power, what will the opposition's attitude be toward this government?

[Bazin] Well, we are contesting the validity, the constitutionality of the elections because the whole thing was unconstitutional from the beginning. Consequently, the legitimacy of the government resulting from these elections immediately falls under question.

Now, the type of concrete action we will take depends on the circumstances, so at this point I would rather not commit myself, or the group, by making a definite statement.

[Reporter] Mr Bazin, supposing Mr Manigat or someone else were to come to power and ask you or another member of the CED to be a part of what they might call a government of national unity. This could happen because Mr Manigat (?has suggested this in one of his statements). Would you be willing to be part of such a government?

[Bazin] I, as an individual, do not count. What counts is the position of my political party, the position of the political groups that I have an agreement with. And together we would have to define a position, taking into account a certain number of conditions.

[Words indistinct] democrats. We are struggling for democracy so there is a minimum number of criteria that would have to be met before anyone could decide whether or not to participate in a government. For example, the civilian society exists. It is important. As a matter of fact, this is one of the major revelations of the crisis. It is extremely difficult for the political society to get its watchwords obeyed without serious support from the civilian society. So all these people would have to get together and define a joint position on the crisis and the government coming to power.

Therefore, personally, my opinion will depend on the agreement reached with all those people in order to reach a joint position.

[Reporter] O.K. Thank you.

[Bazin] Thank you, very much, Radio Soleil.

Auguste: Fraud Favors Other Candidates

FL201440 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Excerpts] Candidates who participated in the elections continue to protest. The MOP's [Movement for the Organization of the Country] Philippe Auguste continues to denounce irregularities, chicanery and/or fraud that occurred during the 17 January elections.

After denouncing fraud in favor of Leslie Manigat in an interview he granted us yesterday, he told us about irregularities in favor of Hubert de Ronceray in Petionville. As for the returns that are beginning to come in, he said they meant nothing to him. He will wait for the final results, so the MOP can take whatever position it deems necessary.

[Auguste, changing between Creole and French] "I am not the only one to note irregularities at City Hall in Petionville. [passage omitted]

"We went down to vote together. The first polling station we came to after leaving my house was the one at City Hall. When we entered to vote, we found three persons—two young people and a woman—reproaching a man who had removed... [changes thought] because they put all the ballots together, as you saw.

"You did go vote yourself? You didn't? Well, OK, anyway, they put all the ballots together—one for president, three for senators, one for deputy, and one for communal magistrate, communal committee—four ballots. They put them all together. And the president is supposed to check them, to count to see that there are not too many. But it turns out that it was not the president doing this. It was a man standing near the ballot box, who would take people's ballots and, while counting them, do whatever he wanted with them. He removed the presidential ballot and substituted a De Ronceray ballot for it.

"This was clearly (?stated) by these three people. They said: No, you can't remove the ballot, and replace it with a yellow ballot. Our ballot is a white ballot.

"The woman couldn't read, you see; but the young man could. He looked like a secondary school student. And he said: But it is your ballot he removed, Mr President.

"Where did he put it? He said: There, under the table. And the man had to admit he had done so.

"We thought he was the polling station president. How can you be just sitting there. It is you who are supposed to be working. Who is this guy? Is he a member of the polling station?

"The answer was: Well yes, they sent him. So we asked: Whose person are you? They managed to pull a paper out of his pocket, and he was found to be a de Ronceray representative. His card was marked MDN [Mobilization for the Development of the Country].

"And then the polling station president said: Yes, he's been doing that since this morning.

"Needless to say, we told him he had to write up a formal report and have the man arrested. Even if he is a friend, relative, or whatever, you just cannot be the president and maintain order in the proceedings and allow yourself to get involved in disorder with him, and so forth.

"So the president pulled out a piece of paper and started to write, and so forth, and then he came back over to us and we said: Are you going to have him arrested? The corporal came and asked: Shall I arrest him? No, just get him out of here, he answered. So then we understood. We left and went to vote at another polling station, at the Petionville high school. [passage omitted]"

[Reporter] "OK, you have told us about irregularities. What do you think of the preliminary results the government radio has been giving?"

[Auguste] "They don't mean a thing to me. I don't know if they are official or unofficial. We are awaiting the final results because we have reports from our representatives in all provinces, in all the geographical departments. We know how we did. We know what happened. And we are waiting to see what they are going to say."

[Reporter] "You said: What they are going to say? If what they say doesn't match what you verified, what will happen?"

[Auguste] "Well, then the council will meet and, after deliberation, we will take whatever position is deemed necessary."

[Reporter] "What if it turns out that approximately 10 percent of the population voted and the MOP turns out to have come to power? How do you think you will be able to run this country?"

[Auguste] "No, but that is badly said, come to power. Let them give their results. And the MOP's council will meet, and after deliberation, we will take whatever position must be taken."

De Ronceray Denounces Electoral Fraud

PA201748 Paris AFP in Spanish 1605 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 20 Jan (AFP)—Hubert de Ronceray, one of the four main presidential candidates in last Sunday's elections, said today that the elections were a "coup d'etat with ballots with the complicity of some military men" in favor of Leslie Manigat.

Ronceray, the president of the Mobilization for the Development of the Nation (MDN-Centrist) reported "irregularities and fraud at all levels" and he already questioned "any attempt to confirm" Manigat's victory. Ronceray stated this in an open letter to General Henri Namphy, president of the National Government Council (CNG).

According to the first, partial election results and unofficial estimates, Manigat, leader of the Assembly of National Progressive Democrats (RDNP), which calls itself a centrist group, obtained most of the votes in an electoral process marked by massive abstentions.

In statements to the press, Ronceray said that "obeying orders from their superiors, military men "sold Manigat's ballots all over the place" during the elections.

Ronceray added that Manigat's people purchased Ronceray's ballots "for $1 and up to $5" from voters who were ready to vote for him and "exchanged them for Manigat's ballots."

Ronceray, who supported the elections, which were described as a "farce" by most of the country's political parties and organizations, stated that "the towns that overwhelmingly voted for him, will not let cheaters step on their decision" and warned that "the country is threatened with civil war."

Two other presidential candidates who participated in Sunday's elections, Gregoire Eugene and Gerard Philippe Auguste, also denounced the fraud committed in favor of Manigat.

The four opposition candidates who had the most impact during the canceled presidential elections of last December [as received], boycotted last Sunday's elections.

Election Results To Be Released 24 January

PA201853 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1735 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Port-au-Prince, 20 Jan (DPA)—It was reported today in Port-au-Prince that the official results of the 17 January elections in Haiti will be released by the electoral council on 24 January. The announcement was made while the country is calm, despite several candidates' reports on electoral irregularities.

According to partial, unofficial election results, which evidently had padded the tally of some candidates, the "presidential candidates" who are most likely to win are Leslie Manigat and Hubert de Ronceray, two former—although dissident—officials of the Duvalierist dictatorship.

Manigat was the chief of the political department of the Haitian Foreign Ministry during Francois "Papa Doc" Duvalier's government and subsequently lived in exile in France, Trinidad, and Venezuela. Ronceray was the social affairs minister during Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier's government.

According to Article 47 of the electoral law, the candidate who obtains an absolute majority in the elections will be elected president. If none of the candidates obtains an absolute majority, new elections between the two largest vote-getters will be held 8 days after the announcement of the electoral results.

Up until now, the known results did not indicate whether a second election would be necessary or not; also, the exact number of Haitian citizens with the right to vote is unknown.

According to statistics provided by the Provisional Electoral Council, abolished by General Henri Namphy after the failed elections of 29 November, there are 3 million Haitian citizens with the right to vote. However, this figure was questioned by Jean Gilbert, president of the current electoral council, who reduced it to 2 million.

Gilbert states that over 50 percent of the voters voted last Sunday, a fact that he described as the "triumph" of the first elections held in Haiti in 30 years. On Sunday, the people voted in presidential, legislative, and municipal elections.

Haitian radio stations, which are mostly owned by the current opposition, have been calling for the annulment of Sunday's election, claiming it had been manipulated by the military men. The radio stations also have been transmitting reports on the negative comments made by foreign governments and organizations concerning the Haitian election.

The country awaiting the election results next Sunday is calm, and daily activities are being carried out normally.

MDN Claims Victory

FL202036 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] The political party MDN, Mobilization for National Development, has addressed an open letter to General Henri Namphy, president of the National Government Council [CNG]. The letter says:

Mr President, on 17 January 1988, the Haitian people went to the polls to choose a new parliament, communal councils, and a chief of state, as provided by the Constitution of 1987. Throughout Haiti, the people voted en masse in favor of presidential candidate Hubert de Ronceray.

Irregularities and cases of fraud observed at all levels of the elections organization pointed to a coup d'etat in favor of Mr Leslie F. Manigat with the complicity of certain members of the Armed Forces.

This forces us as of right now to contest the results of such a vote and also obliges us to demand that the MDN's victory be respected.

Therefore, I appeal to your sense of responsibility and duty, to avert a catastrophe for Haiti that no one will be able to...[announcer rephrases] that could become serious for Haiti.

CEP Responds to Charges of Irregularities

FL202045 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] The Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] informs all parties concerned in particular and the public in general that in conformity with Article 42 of the electoral decree of 16 December 1987, the polling stations were made up of representatives of all candidates and operated under the supervision of the candidates' authorized delegates. Consequently, the CEP is not at all responsible for any alliances, chicanery, or irregularities occurring at the polling stations.

Further on in its news release, the CEP reminds everybody that the distribution of ballots was the responsibility of the candidates themselves.

So the candidates themselves were responsible for distributing their ballots, says the CEP, which mentions Article 48 in this connection. The CEP can in no way be held responsible for a lack or shortage of ballots, it states.

The CEP also expresses the hope that people of good will will recognize that the members of the CEP acted (?and are acting) impartially, without taking sides, and in a fully independent manner, to honestly accomplish the extremely difficult task with which they were charged.

The press release is signed by all the members of the CEP.

BEC Gives Electoral Figures for Leogane

FL202115 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Report by Leogane correspondent (Gaimes Joseph)

[Text] [Words indistinct] returns from the 17 January elections from the BEC [Communal Electoral Office] in Leogane. It is not we who are inventing these figures. We repeat: We got them from the BEC in Leogane.

For president, Mr Hubert de Ronceray received a total of (?12,203) votes, out of 22,651 votes cast. Leslie Manigat won 6,049 votes, out of 22,651 votes cast. Philippe Auguste received 4,006 votes; Lamartiniere Honorat, 223 votes; Gregoire Eugene, 122 votes; Hugo Noel, 8 votes.

For senator: Mirlande Manigat received 5,829 votes, out of 9,621 votes cast; Pierre Desinor,2,545 and Gerard Romulus, 1,247.

For deputy: Eol Paraison, 12,920 votes, out of 19,227 votes cast. (Carlo Chancy) received 3,331 votes; (Wilfrid Ami), 2,529 votes; (Antoine Kernizan), 447 votes.

For magistrate, the (Gerard Laguerre) coalition won, with 16,244 votes out of 19,227 votes cast. The other coalition, the (Lionel Kernizan) coalition, received 2,980 votes.

That is how the situation looks in Leogane, which had some 55,785 residents of voting age.

CEP Gives Partial Vote Count; Manigat Leading

FL202250 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Excerpts] The Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] yesterday made public the first partial returns of the 17 January elections.

Mr Leslie Manigat, leader of the RDNP,the Assembly of Progressive National Democrats, is leading, with a little over 50 percent of the votes.

These partial results come from 22,317 ballots counted. According to the figures published by the CEP, Mr Manigat has 11,579 votes.

Gregoire Eugene of the Haitian Social Christian party is in second place, with 4,811 votes. In third place is Mr Gerard Philippe Auguste of the MOP [Movement for the Organization of the Country], with 2,186 votes. In fourth place is Mr Hubert de Ronceray of the MDN [Mobilization for National Development), with (?1,698) votes.

The Christian Democratic International, headquartered in Brussels, has also reported these partial returns which place Mr Manigat well ahead of his rivals. It has estimated that between 25 and 40 percent of the population of voting age participated in the elections.

These returns have been contested by Mr Manigat's rivals. [passage omitted]

[Begin Eugene recording] [Passage omitted] In Gonaives, where 90 percent of the votes were cast for Gregoire Eugene, they attributed to Mr Manigat twice the number of votes attributed to me. That is, some 6,000 for Manigat, versus some 3,000 for Gregoire Eugene. This goes against all logic.

Now, everyone should be warned that returns like these could cause towns like Gonaives or Cap-Haitien to explode. [passage omitted]

I said I have seen the obvious proof of the participation of certain commanders of military districts and subdistricts, etc. I know that at the Trou du Nord barracks, Manigat ballots were distributed to the soldiers so they could go vote for him. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Danger of 'Civil War' Noted in Letter to CEP

FL202114 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale in Creole 1400 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] The MDN president has addressed a letter to Jean Gilbert, president of the Provisional Electoral Council [CEP]. The letter says:

Mr President:

The Haitian people had prepared and were awaiting 17 January 1988 as the last decisive stage in the construction of democracy and a process of change in the country.

From the beginning of the balloting, the victory quickly suffered some setbacks, even before its official consecration.

Information from all regional offices and headquarters of the the MDN spoke of numerous irregularities and cases of fraud at certain polling stations.

Agents of the Assembly of Progressive National Democrats [RDNP], with the support of certain military authorities, violated Article 27 of the Constitution. They also violated Articles 66, 68, and 69 of the electoral law by forcing a number of people to vote. They paid them money, purchased their vote.

There was corruption and fraudulent maneuvers at several polling stations.

According to the reportage of Radio Nationale's correspondent in Aquin, the number of voters seen entering the registers at the closing of the polls, per Article 51 of the electoral law, in no way corresponds to the official results broadcast.

In Jacmel, the representative of the BEC refused to read the written record of official proceedings from the rural sections and also refused to count the ballots in the presence of MDN representatives.

The MDN denounces all these irregularities and violations of the democratic process. The MDN demands, first of all, that the CEP officially annul polling stations in (Chavano) and in Limonade, where Mr Rene Manigat and two accomplices stole the ballot boxes.

Secondly, the MDN demands that all the members of the RDNP at fault, regardless of the position they occupy in the party, be subject to the important sanctions provided for in the electoral law.

Three, the MDN demands that the truth be re-established in Gonaives, where there were also fraudulent proceedings in connection with the ballot boxes as well as in La Gonave, Jacmel, Ennery, and everywhere that improper proceedings have been noted.

The letter continues: The MDN is not at all willing to renounce the massive vote in its favor throughout Haiti. The letter points out that the MDN will not under any pretext accept a coup d'etat in favor of Leslie Manigat and protests with all its force manipulations by certain members of the Armed Forces.

The MDN invites you to fully assume your constitutional responsibilities and respect the decision of the sovereign people. The danger of civil war threatening Haiti is serious, Mr President. A foreign occupation of Haiti is already at our front door. The MDN will receive favorably all movements of solidarity aimed at having the rights of the Haitian people respected. The people are determined to take their destiny into their hands.

Yours truly...

This letter was sent to Jean Gilbert, president of the CEP, by presidential candidate Hubert de Ronceray.

Group Cites CNG, Army Puppet Government

FL202315 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil in Creole 1200 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Excerpts] The unity committee in favor of respect for the constitution held a news conference yesterday to state its position on the recent elections. We had a reporter there:

The committee held a news conference at the Holiday Inn [Le Plaza Hotel] this morning. The news conference was attended by both Haitian and foreign journalists. At the speakers table were Father Antoine Adrien, Reverend (Pauris Jean-Baptiste), Jean-Jacques Honorat, (Georges Antoine Izmery), Dr Jean-Louis, and Gabriel Miracle.

They began by reviewing the latest events in Haiti, and they declared that the civilian society will not accept the 17 January masquerade, despite the fact that they know that there are foreign countries ready to recognize the results of the elections.

What happened Sunday means only one thing: that the National Government Council [CNG] wants to continue to rule from behind a puppet government that it appoints itself. The military in power will rule only with weapons. That is all they know. Because the committee

does not want to fall into anarchy and violence, they call on the entire Haitian people to unite in saying no to the masquerade. [passage omitted]

[Begin Father Antoine Adrien recording] [Passage omitted] The elections we said we did not recognize have been held. But I think there is something we must not forget, something that we have demonstrated. We have shown that every time the entire civilian society, standing together, wants something, it has obtained or achieved what it wanted. [passage omitted]

This means that our strength lies in our cohesion, in our agreement. And we are here to note this strength, and to say we have only just begun to use it, for as long as the situation of violence that we are facing exists.

What is happening? They imposed an election on the people which they did not want. They have already begun imposing returns on us. And when I say they I am not only speaking of the CNG. I mean that it is obvious that there are foreign nations which have begun saying behind the scenes: What has happened is valid. It is perhaps unfortunate, but the Haitians must resign themselves.

There is one government that sent someone to tell us that it is ready to say that it will accept the results. Well, the Haitian people know that they themselves cannot accept. Why not? The answer is clear. Because the civilian society is endangered. [end recording] [passage omitted]

The journalists, especially the foreign journalists, wanted the speakers to say clearly what they planned concretely to do to continue the struggle from today on (?until they got the government they wanted). The speakers wouldn't say. They said that it was up to the Haitian people to answer that question. They said that all they were doing was noting who was supporting this government. Let's listen to what Gabriel Miracle said.

[Begin Miracle recording] I think I have stated clearly that the Haitian people are taking note of all this, and understanding all this, that all the U.S. Government maneuvers... [changes thought] The Haitian people will take steps, will decide what they will do. It is clear to us that the Haitian people will not recognize the new government that is going to be set up. [passage omitted] [end recording]

St Vincent and the Grenadines

Regala Seen as Man With 'Real Power' in Haiti

FL151755 Bridgetown CANA in English 1702 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Kingston, St Vincent, Jan 15, CANA—St Vincent and the Grenadines has turned down a late invitation from Jamaica to participate in an observer team from the group of so-called Concerned Caribbean Leaders (CCL) going to monitor next Sunday's general elections.

Prime Minister James Mitchell said the invitation had come only on Wednesday afternoon—too late for the necessary arrangements to be made for a representative from his government to go to Haiti. The Vicentian leader said he had intended to send government Senator Stuart Nanton, but that there was not sufficient time for him to obtain a visa and other official clearance to make the trip. Mitchell was a member of the CCL team which visited Haiti last December for talks with Lieutenant-General Henri Nampy on the November 29 general elections aborted after gunmen opened fire killing voters. Meanwhile, vice president of the Caribbean Congress of Labour (CCL), Burns Bonadie, says the man with the real power in Haiti is not Lieutenant-General Namphy, but Major-General Williams Regala, the interior and defence minister.

Bonadie was a member of the observer team from the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC) for the aborted November 29 elections, but was made to remain at the airport because he did not have a visa to enter the country.

The trade unionist told a panel discussion on the Haitian situation that he got the distinct impression that Major-General Regala controlled the elite in the Army, and was the man to blame for the violence which erupted during the cancelled elections last year. Bonadie said it appeared to him that Regala was the officer responsible for security arrangements during the elections and that he failed to ensure that the Army moved in to put an early end to the violence which left dozens of people dead, according to eyewitnesses.

President de la Madrid Leaves for Sweden
FL161330 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0404 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 15 Jan (NOTIMEX)—Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado left tonight for Stockholm, Sweden to pay a state visit and attend a Group of Six meeting. [passage omitted]

The president was accompanied by his wife Paloma Cordero de la Madrid, Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor, Foreign Under Secretary Victor Flores Olea, Senate President Salvador Neme Castillo, as well as by the foreign investments control under secretary, the presidential chief of staff, his private secretary, and the general director of protocol.

President Assumes Responsibility for Policies
PA132210 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 9 Jan 88 pp 1, 6

[Report by "The News Staff"]

[Text] President Miguel de la Madrid assumed full responsibility for his administration's economic policies Friday [8 Jan], saying criticism of it should be directed at him rather than the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] or its presidential candidate.

The president made the statement at a breakfast held by the PRI's Executive Committee in the presidential residence.

The PRI's presidential candidate, Carlos Salinas de Gortari, has been given a lot of credit for the De la Madrid administration's economic policy. Salinas de Gortari served as the administration's Secretariat of Programming and Budget until he stepped down to take the PRI presidential nomination.

De la Madrid said the economic crisis that has plagued Mexico for the past five years "has concentrated national income in a very worrying manner."

One of the tasks that "we of the PRI have," he said, "is to turn back that tendency." The concentration of income, said De la Madrid, "cannot be allowed to take root in our economic system or our social system."

The president told the committee that the PRI has abandoned all ideas of "caudillaje or continuism."

In politics, caudillaje refers to the concentration of power in one man, rather than around his political office.

"Each man responds to his time," said De la Madrid, "and the party has the obligation to adapt itself to the process of change" and help direct it.

The party's history should be taken as a reference point, he said, "but not like a straight jacket."

The party should take advantage of the good things that have been done by revolutionary governments, said De la Madrid. "At the same time, we will revise those things in which they were mistaken."

"The PRI will also treat the government of Miguel de la Madrid in this manner," the president said.

In the name of the PRI, party President Jorge de la Vega Dominguez gave full support to the Economic Solidarity Pact (PSE).

He acknowledged that it has been difficult to explain how raising prices on public sector goods and services is an anti-inflationary manner, but said the confidence of the Mexican people will grow as the pact begins to show results.

That confidence, said De la Vega Dominguez, "will strengthen our party, and, at the polls, it will translate into the triumph of our presidential candidate and our candidates for the Chamber of Deputies and Senate."

De la Madrid characterized the PSE as "unprecedented" policy making or "the utmost importance."

The alternative to the anti-inflation pact, he said, "is a process of social conflict that would hurt everyone and that could worsen the sensitive economic situation even more."

The government, he said, must dedicate itself to the daily task of insuring compliance with the pact. As rector of the economy, the government is responsible for insuring the pact's success.

Later Friday, De la Madrid focused on major issues regarding Mexico's economic situation. In his New Year address, the president outlined the rationale, the leading features and the objectives of his administration's anti-inflation plan, also known as the Economic Solidarity Pact (PSE).

He described the pact, which called for the involvement of government, workers, campesinos and businessmen, as a "highly imaginative strategy."

De la Madrid stressed, however, that the plan should not be viewed either as an infallible formula or as a magic concoction expected to prompt overnight an economic turnaround.

Instead, he depicted the program as "a concerted effort designed to gradually curb inflation and head off the latent threat of hyperinflation.

He praised the cooperative spirit displayed by all the sectors engaged in the pact, forecasting eventual fulfillment of their hopes for better standards of living.

De la Madrid clarified that the PSE does not call for total freezing of market prices. He pointed out that businessmen had agreed to trim down profits as much as possible and implement the fewest price increases they can.

"Like December," he said, "the months of January and February will be painful. The burden, however, will be eased by February and will be further diminished by June. Improvement in the overall economic conditions will seem slow, but they will be felt."

The president said he will make sure government lives up to the people's expectations. "I will see that government does its part," he promised. "I shall personally supervise the sound management of the pact."

De la Madrid said he will personally see that the fiscal deficit is scaled back along with a trim-down in a currently bloated bureaucracy. He said he will personally monitor money supply policies and curb corruption that may otherwise lead to social conflicts.

He said economic recovery must be achieved in peace, social stability and within the law, lashing out at proposals of civil disobedience, rebelliousness and resistance.

The president said he will make a major effort to reconcile differences and opinions. Disputes must be settled in order to promote unity and joint success," he said.

De la Madrid said it is time for optimism and to bring the best out of the Mexican people. "The present and the future of Mexico depend on the Mexican people's discipline and orderly attitudes," he aid.

Salinas:'No Continuity' With Economic Policy

FL132232 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0424 GMT 10 Jan 88

[By Alicia Yolanda Reyes]

[Excerpt] Mexico City, 9 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The second stage of the political-electoral campaign of Carlos Salinas de Gortari, the PRI candidate to succeed Miguel de la Madrid as president of the Republic, has a different quality to it.

From the beginning of his tour of Tlaxcala State, the PRI candidate has defined his position on various issues. He told reporters accompanying him there will be no continuity with the economic policy of the present administration as has been stated since his candidacy became public. But that does not mean there is a rift with De la Madrid; his campaign managers rushed to clarify. The thing is that they are different men with different views about the country's situation and the ways to solve its problems. That is all, they said.

They also took the opportunity to scotch rumors spread by two political magazines saying that Salinas de Gortari is ill and that the PRI is already looking for a replacement.

Luis Donoso Colosio Murrieta, a top PRI official and general coordinator for Salinas de Gortari's campaign, said that the former planning and budget secretary, who began campaigning on 10 November, has received the backing of the 31 PRI state committees, the Federal District committee, 2,378 municipal committees, and 50,000 sectional committees. Therefore, he declared, the rumors are just that, rumors.

Salinas de Gortari stated in Huamantla, second largest city in Tlaxcala, that he is not tied down to any dogma or formula, either economic or any other. I am not committed, he reiterated, to any continuity except to strengthen the basic principles of the people of Mexico. He then lashed out at opportunists who, from within and without, are trying to capitalize on the worry, uncertainty, economic anguish, indignation, and social stress of present times to dismiss the efforts of all the Mexicans in recent years.[passage omitted]

PRI's Salinas Writes to PAN's Clouthier

PA191505 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 8 Jan 88 pp 1a, 14a

[Report by H. Aranda and E. Olivares]

[Text] Tlaxcala, Tlaxcala, 7 Jan—The conditions are not right for a debate, but for our love of Mexico, "we must maintain a respectful and serene electoral struggle to effectively contribute toward Mexico's sovereignty, justice, and democracy."

These were the terms used by PRI presidential candidate Carlos Salinas de Gortari in his letter to PAN [National Action Party] presidential candidate Manuel J. Clouthier, who on 5 January invited Salinas to participate in a public debate at the main square in Leon, Guanajuato, on 11 January.

The text of the letter was distributed this afternoon during the 1st day of a 2-day campaign the PRI candidate will undertake in Tlaxcala. The answer was sent to Clouthier on 6 January.

Salinas de Gortari's answer says: "I want to tell you I have read with interest the letter you sent me proposing a public debate at the main square in Leon, Guanajuato, so we may state our positions concerning the country's problems and the nation's future."

The letter adds:

"The PRI, as a majority party, has the responsibility and conviction of debating and discussing the great issues affecting our nation. In fact, my political campaign has been designed to allow for the participation of our

society, thus making possible a fruitful dialogue with the workers, peasants, popular groups, middle class, professionals, intellectuals, nationalist businessmen, youths, and women.

"This has allowed me to hear their views, discuss our electoral platform, and publicly state our viewpoints about the problems in Mexico and the communities I have visited. We have also discussed the ways to solve those problems. Those viewpoints have been publicized by the news media and are evidently contrary to your party's thesis, which society knows very well."

The PRI candidate's letter to Manuel J. Clouthier says at the end: "The present conditions are not right for a debate such as the one you propose. I love Mexico, and I am fully convinced we must maintain a respectful and serene electoral struggle that effectively contributes to strengthen sovereignty, justice, and democracy in Mexico."

PAN Leader Alleges Jalisco Media Censorship

PA191941 Mexico City THE NEWS in English 14 Jan 88 p 4

[Report by Diana Maria Konupek]

[Text] National Action Party (PAN) chairman Luis H. Alvarez Wednesday denounced the alleged censorship in Jalisco's major media of the PAN's presidential candidate Manuel J. Clouthier's rallies.

A former presidential contender himself (1958-1964), Alvarez cited provisions in the Mexican Constitution guaranteeing the basic human right of freedom of expression.

Alvarez cited Article 13 of the Mexican Constitution which guarantees the freedom of thought and expression, Article 41 which guarantees parties the permanent use of the communication media, as well as Articles 48 and 49 of the Federal Electoral Code of Law which guarantees political parties permanent access to radio and television.

Mexico is also a signatory to the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights and the International Declaration of Human Rights.

Those who have nothing to say and cannot respond to the public, said PAN officials, demonstrate the repression of freedom of expression through the technocratic bureaucracy's tendency to silence. On one hand, there is the noise of propaganda, and on the other, the rejection of dialogue.

PAN officials also said if Mexico truly wants to have dialogue, it is illogical and dangerous to ignore opposition parties.

When questioned why PAN recently rejected federal financial support for their campaign, PAN Secretary General Abel Vicencia Tovar answered, "It's a question of principles and it was a decision made by the majority in the PAN party."

According to PAN officials, four party radio broadcasts were suspended Tuesday by the government causing the National Action Party's (PAN) presidential candidate Manuel J. Clouthier to interrupt his electoral campaign in Jalisco and return to Mexico City for a meeting with the Secretary of Interior (Gobernacion) Manuel Bartlett and President Miguel de la Madrid at Los Pinos to demand an end to information repression.

The broadcasts suspended included a Tuesday interview on station XELJ in Jalisco with an open telephone line and on Monday, three stations in Leon.

As of yesterday, no response had been issued from the Secretary of Interior (Gobernacion).

PAN announced peaceful measures on Wednesday to demonstrate their discontent and change the government's attitude.

Clouthier told reporters Tuesday in a Jalisco press conference "I am ready to interrupt my electoral campaign right now throughout the country and personally meet with the Secretary of Interior (Gobernacion) Manuel Bartlett and present my protest to President de la Madrid at Los Pinos presidential residence, to demand that the government stop information repression and the blocking of the radio broadcasts. In this fight for democracy, it is not worth violating the rights of the Mexicans to be well informed, this is fraud and at PAN we are not going to keep silent about it."

Labor Reiterates Support for President

PA121421 Mexico City EL DIA in Spanish 6 Jan 88 p 3

[Article by Jorge O. Ochoa]

[Text] Yesterday, organized labor reiterated its total support for President Miguel de la Madrid's government and demanded consistent actions from the private sector to successfully carry out the Economic Solidarity Pact signed a few days ago.

Labor Congress President Fidel Velazquez ratified this support in a short speech. Meanwhile, leaders of the CROC [Revolutionary Confederation of Workers and Peasants] recognized the current administration's efforts but stressed that the present economic crisis is part of a world phenomenon which mainly affects Latin American countries.

Mario Suarez, leader of the Revolutionary Workers Confederation (CRT), acknowledged that 1988 will be a tough and difficult year. Therefore, he demanded that items which will comprise the basic food basket be reconsidered to "take care of the needs of the working family."

He demanded that items like shoes and clothing be included in the new package for workers' consumption. This is because the workers are in no position to squander such goods; therefore, they cannot be considered luxuries.

Hugo Domenzain Guzman of the FSTSE [Trade Union Federation of Government Workers], said Mexicans must be aware and responsible "because of the possibility of powerful outside economic influence and, regrettably, inside accomplices."

Domenzain said it is time to put aside personal or group interests and realize that what is at stake are balance, social tranquillity, what we have today and tomorrow, and our welfare and that of future generations.

Antonio Jaimes Aguilar, leader of the teachers union, called for unity. Napoleon Gomez Sada, the miners' leader, demanded that businessmen assume responsibility for ensuring that the Economic Solidarity Pact is successful. He noted that Mexico has in the last 5 years experienced one of the most difficult periods in its economic history.

Former oil leader Jose Sosa Martinez and SUTERM [Single Union of Electrical Workers of the Republic of Mexico] leader Gerardo Rodriguez Alcaine, recognized that Mexico urgently needs to renew the economic struggle to overcome the effects of this crisis, "which has already led to despair and hunger for large sectors of the revolution and numerous social nucleii that lead a miserable life deprived of material goods."

Alcaine even warned that it is necessary to take steps to help these sectors "if we do not want an explosion of nonconformity by the already hungry Mexican masses."

Alcaine stressed that the Mexican Revolution should now be injected with new and vigorous social and economic action containing energetic and decisive new goals to attack the crisis."

Socialist Candidate Announces Plans

PA191536 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 8 Jan 88 pp 1a, 16a

[Article by EXCELSIOR correspondent Armando Sepulveda I.]

[Excerpt] Martinez de la Torre, Veracruz, 7 Jan—Heberto Castillo, presidential candidate of the Mexican Socialist Party [PMS], said today if he wins the elections, he will suspend payment on the foreign debt and will authorize international banks to take over the $70 billion deposited in those banks by former officials and large businessmen.

He pointed out that Mexico is "so deeply in debt there are not enough funds to even pay the interest."

He warned that if the situation does not change, the country will soon be in foreign hands. He stated that the government does not take care of the people's problems, adding that the government "does not see, does not hear, does not feel; it only looks after the powerful ones, both local and foreign."

The PMS candidate was in Veracruz today for the second part of his electoral campaign. He met with peasants and held a news conference. He said for there to be a democracy and to put an end to corruption, it is necessary to end the PRI's predominance.

Castillo said he would defend his victory with his life, because 1988 will not be the same as 1929 with Vasconcelos, or 1940 with Almanza, or 1952 with Henriquez Guzman.

The PMS candidate added that everything will continue to increase as long as the people are not in power. He said the workers' wages are 50 percent lower today than they were 10 years ago.

During a meeting at the city's main plaza, Castillo told 2,000 peasants that the country has been ruled by one party, the PRI.

"The Economic Solidarity Pact," he said, "will sink the people into a greater poverty. We are the option that will guarantee the country's sovereignty." [passage omitted]

Fishing Vessels Detained in Guatemala

FL202337 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2132 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Guatemala City, 20 Jan (NOTIMEX)—The Guatemalan Defense Ministry reported today that two Mexican fishing vessels and their respective crews are being detained at the port of San Jose. The report stated that the Mexican vessels were intercepted on Monday [18 Jan] within the jurisdictional waters of the Quetzal Port, 126 km south of the capital.

The ministry added that Coast Guard boat Stella Maris escorted vessels Maritza and Teresita Cuatro to the Port of San Jose after they confirmed they were not authorized to fish in Guatemalan waters.

The military report says the vessels and crews are under the care of the captain in charge of the port of San Jose, where decisions will be made regarding the violations according to the law.

Briefs

Oil Agreement With Japan Renewed

PEMEX today renewed a contract with Japan to continue supplying 108,000 barrels each day in 1988. PEMEX General Director Francisco Rojas stressed his organization's responsibility and efficiency to supply crude oil to Japan. [Excerpt] *[Mexico City XHTV Television in Spanish 14 Jan 88 PA]*

Belize

PUP Accuses Government of 'Reign of Terror'

FL172021 Bridgetown CANA in English 1726 GMT 15 Jan 88

[By Norris Hall]

[Text] Belmopan, Belize, Jan 15, CANA—Belize's main opposition People's United Party (PUP) has accused the government of instituting "a reign of terror", and threatening democracy in this Central American state.

Party officials convened a meeting on Wednesday with representatives of the church and foreign governments here and handed out a list of complaints against the United Democratic Party (UDP) administration.

The PUP, which held power for over 25 years until its electoral defeat three years ago, charged the authorities with harassment of the church, press, judiciary, and the civil service. The government was also accused of manipulation of the security forces and tampering with the electoral machinery.

"Belize is fast becoming a police state. Phones are tapped at will. Citizens are arrested and charged without supporting evidence", said a statement issued by the PUP's central executive.

It added: "The rule of law is disappearing altogether in Belize. Excuses, abuses, and oppression are the order of the day. The plan for the consolidation of power has placed nothing and no one beyond the grasp of this regime."

The PUP's charges of human rights abuses marked a new twist in tense opposition-government relations which worsened after the recent burning down of the home of Deputy Prime Minister Curl Thompson.

The government blamed the opposition for the blaze which occurred shortly after a controversial government decision to establish a secret intelligence service. The PUP denied the charge.

Three persons have been charged in connection with the offence, including former Army Major Thomas Greenwood, said to be a member of the PUP.

The PUP called Greenwood, who has been refused bail, Belize's "first political prisoner since the colonial era".

The party statement contended that Deputy Prime Minister Thompson, as minister of home affairs, had extensive power under the law establishing the Security Intelligence Service (SIS) and was able to "personally" direct the investigations into the fire at his home.

"This is how laws are now being passed and the nature of those laws. They convert the power and domination of the UDP over the entire society."

The PUP said litigation was being used by members of the government to silence its newspaper, the BELIZE TIMES, which it said had stood up to the government "while other newspapers remained silent, cowed and fearful".

Were it not for the BELIZE TIMES, the PUP said, the SIS law would have been passed without public knowledge.

"When laws are made without the participation of the people, effective democracy is dead."

With the approach of municipal elections, the PUP said it was concerned about the dismissal of the chief elections officer and his replacement by a "UDP political lackey."

"The corruption of this institution (electoral system) could well spell the end to free democratic elections in Belize. This is a traditional way to perpetuate political tyranny and to frustrate the efforts of legitimate political parties."

The statement alleged a spate of sackings, including top civil servants, high court judges, heads of statutory corporations, the clerk of parliament, the governor of the Central Bank, and the police commissioner.

The PUP said the predicament facing Belize was how to change back to democracy and all that goes with it.

Costa Rica

Sandinist Delegation to Contra Talks Arrives

PA210359 Paris AFP in Spanish 0337 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] San Jose, 20 Jan (AFP)—A Nicaraguan Government delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco arrived in San Jose tonight to meet directly with the counterrevolutionaries for the first time on Wednesday [as received] and to negotiate a cease-fire.

Tinoco told AFP that the delegation hopes to meet with the leaders of the Nicaraguan Resistance after the rebel leaders conclude their noon meeting with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, the mediator in the dialogue.

Government To Implement IMF Fiscal Reforms

PA162001 San Jose LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 7 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] The Arias administration will implement a fiscal program this year that will seek to totally eliminate the nonfinancial public sector deficit. The program will also try to transfer sufficient resources to the Central Bank so that its operational losses will not exceed three percent of the GNP.

This fiscal adjustment plan is part of the agreement with the IMF. Congress has approved a "tax package" to achieve this goal.

The goal of the fiscal plan is to reduce the 1988 deficit of the central administration to 1.7 percent of the GNP. It also calls for reducing the Central Bank's net operational losses to three percent in 1988.

To attain these goals, the government needs to maintain a policy of restricting spending in 1988.

Due to the policy of supporting prices, as well as the policy of passing on to consumers only part of the cost of subsidies approved for agricultural products, the government is committed to reducing the 1988 deficit of the National Council for Production (CNP) to 14 percent of the GNP. It expects to do this by reducing subsidies for the production of basic grains.

The government has also accepted other commitments for this year with the IMF, including continuing to sell off subsidiaries of the Development Corporation, Inc. (CODESA). It is expected that the remaining subsidiaries—with the exception of FERTICA [Central American Fertilizers, Inc.] and Cementos del Pacifico, which by law can only have 40 percent of its property sold—will be sold sometime in the middle of this year.

El Salvador

Duarte Sends Ortega Note Protesting Arrests

PA202309 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 20 Jan 88 p 34

[Unattributed article: "Duarte Protests Arrests in Nicaragua" under the rubric "Last-Minute News"]

[Text] Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte sent a strong protest note last night to Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega over the arrest of citizens struggling for the liberty of the Nicaraguan people.

In the note Duarte sent to Daniel Ortega, he points out that less than 72 hours after the joint declaration was signed, he [Ortega] has demonstrated a lack of political willingness to search for peace in the region.

The text of the note signed by the Salvadoran president reads as follows:

"Mr Daniel Ortega, president of Nicaragua, Managua, Nicaragua. Mr President: I have just learned with great concern that upon their arrival at Managua airport following a SANSA flight from Costa Rica, the following members of the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN] were seized by Sandinist security forces: Dr Miriam Arguello (of the Conservative Party), Carlos Huembes (president of the CDN), Jaime Chamorro (a director of Managua's LA PRENSA), Dr Gilberto Cuadra (of COSEP) [Higher Council of Private Enterprise], and Dr Cairo Manuel Lopez (of the Social Christian Party).

"The CDN members listed above visited me last Wednesday [13 January] at the Presidency to reiterate their support for the Esquipulas II peace process and for democracy. They also visited to ask me, when at the meeting of Central American presidents, to reaffirm my position to ensure fulfillment of the accords signed in Guatemala. These are agreements that have permitted a rebirth of democratic hopes in the Nicaraguan people.

"Since the arrest that I referred to flagrantly violates the Guatemala agreement, whose concepts and spirit were recognized and reiterated last Friday in San Jose, I hereby protest the attitude that your government has demonstrated toward the CDN members—only 3 days after the signing of the joint declaration in San Jose. The contents of this document, as you well know, are 'unrenounceable and unalterable,' and must be fulfilled 'without reluctance,' in a 'total and responsible' manner. They also include an awareness that our peoples and the international community 'will judge harshly the nonfulfillment of the commitments made in good faith.'

"Hoping that the problem posed and all those related to the fulfillment of Esquipulas II will have an immediate solution, in a 'public and straightforward manner,' as an 'indispensable element to achieve a stable and lasting peace in the region,' I am yours truly, Eng Jose Napoleon Duarte, constitutional president of El Salvador."

Duarte Speaks on Return From San Jose Summit

PA200441 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 18 Jan 88

[News conference by President Jose Napoleon Duarte with local and international reporters following his return from San Jose, Costa Rica, on 17 January; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Duarte] A few moments ago, we arrived from San Jose where we participated in a meeting of presidents scheduled as part of the Esquipulas II agreement. This agreement specified that a meeting of presidents should take place within 250 days to receive a report from the International Verification and Follow-Up Commission [CIVS], and that we should review the report and take appropriate steps.

We therefore met to hear from the CIVS representatives and the [words indistinct] whether Esquipulas II is being complied with.

In an interview before leaving for those talks, I told Salvadorans that in going there, I knew El Salvador has moral authority, because it has fully complied with the agreement. With that same moral authority, it would then fulfill its commitment to speak the truth. I said that speaking the truth meant to state clearly and honestly [words indistinct] of compliance or noncompliance by other countries. I specifically noted Nicaragua's failure to comply with the provisions of Esquipulas II.

I also promised I would use the same language in San Jose. I did so before hundreds of correspondents waiting to interview us at the airport. I reiterated my statements, displayed this document, and said: What is important here is that this document has a conceptual and philosophical value; it contains principles, concepts, objectives, and [word indistinct].

I said I would defend this project and ensure its compliance; I stated I would accept no excuses or procrastination for avoiding compliance. I then noted I would demand all efforts for honoring this document.

At the international level, there was pessimism that foreign pressure on us would create an atmosphere leading to the failure of the San Jose meeting. As you may recall, it was also said that we would fail in the Esquipulas II meeting in Guatemala. The people and the media were surprised when they saw we had reached an agreement, that we signed a document, and that from that moment on, this document became a foreign policy plan for Central America and the world.

The same skepticism was present now. It was thought that we would attain no agreement and that we would not even meet. In fact, it was difficult. There are very strong clashes, especially between Mr Ortega and myself on the concepts, principles, objectives, and terms of the Esquipulas II agreement.

However, after long hours of work, we reached this accord, which I will now read. I would like you to keep in mind that this agreement fully ratifies the Esquipulas II agreement. It strengthens Esquipulas II; Esquipulas is alive, continues to live, and will continue to be the basic instrument for achieving peace in Central America. [Passage omitted]

I am now at your disposition for whatever questions you may wish to ask.

[Reporter] Mr President, El Salvador fulfilled its commitments under the Esquipulas II agreement well in advance. I am specifically referring to the dialogue, the cease-fire, and the amnesty. In addition to what your government has already done, what are its immediate plans or what commitments will be announced to the Salvadoran people through the press following this news conference?

[Duarte] We have pledged to thoroughly review what else we can do to promote the peace process in our country. Together with the Foreign Ministry, we are going to review the CIVS report, which contains some recommendations. We will also consider and try to fulfill not only the declaration from the meeting, but also the recommendations of the CIVS. I believe the Salvadoran people know we have honored the Esquipulas II accords to the utmost. This is not the case with other countries.

However, there are some things that must be guaranteed so there can be no doubts. One of the things we are going to demonstrate is that there is no instrument in our country that serves to destabilize any other state. This is important, because we want to make it very clear that we not only fulfilled the Esquipulas II agreement, but we also followed our own principles. This implies that we do not believe force is the proper way to achieve power, regardless of the cause advocated. We believe there is a political situation, which in this case is contained in the Esquipulas II accords, to attain peace. We will insist that the rebels abandon terrorism and violence as a means of seizing power.

The presidents clearly stated that dialogue with those who have taken up arms does not mean discussing power. Ortega said it signifies that the rebels must abandon the armed path and join the peace process. Here I add: as long as that process is oriented toward democracy. Thus, we will continue to make progress in the democratic process. We are at the threshold of elections. We must fulfill a task to ensure the validity of this process as a fundamental part of the democratic concept of the Salvadoran Government and people.

[Reporter] Mr President, what does the CIVS report say about your government's fulfillment of the Esquipulas II agreement?

[Duarte] The report says El Salvador met its commitments. The report adds, in fact, that the opposition, on submitting its report to the CIVS, noted that a dialogue had been held, but that they regretted the government emphasized dialogue with the guerrillas over the rest of the opposition. This means, therefore, that we fulfilled both dialogues—the effort we made with the guerrillas and that made with the other opposition. They [not further specified] then refer to the amnesty. They believe the timeframe can be expanded, and they recommend this. However, they also recommend that we reduce the extent of the amnesty, because they say ours is too broad, while those of other states are not so extensive. They propose a reduction in the timeframe we had announced. [sentence as heard] The opposition clearly says—and there was a statement to this effect by a clergyman—that the government fulfilled the amnesty plan to the utmost.

Other countries must also comply with the amnesty plan. The country that is more in hot water is Nicaragua, which has made all sorts of flimsy attempts to fulfill it. We argued an awful lot about this. In the end, when we had approved this document, President Daniel Ortega tried to make a proposal saying how he intended to allegedly honor the commitments of the document. He then made this statement: 1. The Nicaraguan Government will implement the law suspending the state of emergency throughout the country. He had always rejected this, but now he will grant it. 2. The Nicaraguan Government will immediately begin talks with the armed groups to reach a cease-fire agreement, within the framework of the Esquipulas II accords. The government, in conforming with the requests made at the last meeting of this group in Santo Domingo, has decided to include—in addition to the foreigners it has there, since it has two foreign nationals, one American and one West German—a Nicaraguan as part of the delegation to the cease-fire talks. These will be mediated by Cardinal Obando y Bravo. A meeting for this will be held in San Jose, Costa Rica. That was the second point. 3. The Nicaraguan Government is willing to implement Amnesty Law No 33, which is currently deferred, when an effective agreement is reached on a cease-fire, and when the groups that have taken up arms rejoin the civilian process. Also, in the event a cease-fire is not reached, it is willing to release these individuals if the U.S. Government or any other non-Central American government decides to accept them. They can then return to Nicaragua when the war is over. This means exile; he speaks of expatriation and asylum. 4. Nicaragua will hold elections for the Central American parliament under the established terms, and it will also carry out municipal elections as established by the constitution.

As you can see, Nicaragua did not fulfill the commitments of Esquipulas II for 150 days. We signed this document, but then 1/2 hour later, Ortega made this statement which totally contradicts the principles he had signed only 1/2 hour before.

[Reporter] What would happen or could happen if Nicaragua continues, as some governments charge, to give material support to the FMLN, on the one hand, and if it continues to violate its own agreements, as has occurred in the letter and spirit of the [words indistinct].

[Duarte] [Words indistinct] of the Esquipulas accords. And I told him, return the radio and television stations to their owners and allow newscasts to be broadcast without restrictions, to totally comply with the rights of freedom of the press and freedom of speech. We need to strengthen Nicaraguan democracy to strengthen democracy in the rest of Central America. I hope, I told him, that the people will be allowed to participate in politics with guarantees of organization and mobilization. I particularly hope, I told him, that there will be an end to the FMLN-FDR terrorist organizations, and that their leaders will be expelled from Nicaraguan territory to end the war against the Salvadoran people.

Minister on CIVS Report's 'Discrepancies'

PA200133 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Statement by Foreign Minister Ricardo Acevedo Peralta on 18 January; place not given—recorded]

[Text] I had to present a claim—a strong claim, which, as a matter of fact, I will send you tomorrow—that there are discrepancies between the treatment given to the United States and Nicaragua concerning the aid these countries are giving the rebel groups in Nicaragua and El Salvador, respectively. We believe that the treatment they receive in the CIVS report is unfair. We believe it is unfair not to recognize the obvious aid Nicaragua is giving to the guerrillas in El Salvador, particularly after so much evidence that undeniably proves this intervention was presented.

Fortunately, our delegation was able to overcome and correct other instances of bias or a lack of objectivity concerning El Salvador which, regrettably, the CIVS chose to accept. Nevertheless, the overall image of El Salvador [at the summit of Central American presidents] was positive.

As for Nicaragua's meddling in our country, here in El Salvador—and in Panama, also—we asked that an extensive list of charges be recorded and annexed to the general report. The list contains 60 specific actions which demonstrate that that country is not abiding by its commitment to not lend its territory for attacks against other regional states, and to not aid irregular and guerrilla groups operating in El Salvador.

Moreover, the document clearly shows that Nicaragua is not abiding by its commitment to a general amnesty, democratization, and the lifting of the state of emergency. The Salvadoran document that I have just mentioned concerning Nicaragua's failure to comply with its pledge to ban the use of territory and aid to unconventional forces was registered and annexed. The CIVS [report] is a private report, which is why I have commented on it in very broad terms. The conclusions of this document served as the basis for the presidents' declaration in San Jose. I wish to make it perfectly clear that the San Jose declaration generally entails the following aspects:

1. The presidents' declaration entails the recognition of the historic value of the Esquipulas II document. The countries are obliged to implement Esquipulas II or whatever aspects of it they have presently failed to fully implement, because this document contains a pledge made by all Central American presidents. The moral value of Esquipulas II is unrenounceable.

2. The deadlines were eliminated. This is a new diplomatic strategy that compels the government to immediately comply with those aspects of the agreement that have been left pending.

3. As the deadlines were eliminated, it was said that compliance must be immediate, evident, and public. For that reason, on-site verification is logically relegated to second place.

4. The principle of simultaneity was clarified. It is dissociated from the principle of reciprocity, because there was some confusion regarding this point even within the CIVS. Therefore, it was established that the governments will comply in an independent, unconditional, and binding manner without reluctance and without undue attention paid to the corresponding compliance of other states. This was established perfectly well in the document the presidents signed.

FDR Leaders Zamora, Colindres To Return

PA191644 San Salvador DIARIO LATINO in Spanish 18 Jan 88 p 11

[Unattributed article: "Ruben Zamora Returns to the Country Again This Week"]

[Text] It was reported that this week, two FDR leaders will arrive in El Salvador, for the second time.

According to rebel reports, Hector Oqueli Colindres and Ruben Zamora will return to the country to analyze the "possibilities of participating in the 20 March [mayoral] elections."

Similarly, it was reported that the FDR leaders will return to El Salvador to analyze the electoral code approved 2 weeks ago. This statute will apply to the 20 March mayoral and legislative elections.

The National Revolutionary Movement (MNR), of which Colindres is the second secretary general, Ruben Zamora's Social Christian People's Movement (MPSC), and Mario Reni Roldan's Social Democratic Party (PSD) formed the Democratic Merger in San Salvador during the 2d week of November 1987.

The Democratic Merger, in its first meeting, ruled out its participation in the 20 March elections. Guillermo Ungo, MNR general secretary and FDR president, who returned to El Salvador last year after the amnesty decree was issued within the "Esquipulas II" framework, also attended the aforementioned ceremony.

According to the FDR representatives, the Democratic Merger would function in El Salvador along with other sectors to promote the creation of a government with broad participation.

According to our information, the visit of the FDR leaders will determine whether or not they will participate in the electoral process.

Guatemala

Cerezo Letter to Reconciliation Commission

PA150033 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 10 Jan 88 p 28

[Letter by President Marco Vinicio Cerezo to the National Reconciliation Commission, issued in Guatemala City; date not given; all caps as published]

[Text] Messrs President and Members of the National Reconciliation Commission.

Respectable gentlemen:

Allow me to answer through this letter the various proposals that you have presented to the government of the Republic, either in writing or during direct talks, as follows:

1. COMMISSION VISITS TO REFUGEE CAMPS OUTSIDE GUATEMALA [subhead]

Referring to the commission's interest in visiting the Guatemalan refugee camps in Mexican territory, allow me to tell you that the government approves of this visit. You will thus ascertain the social and economic situation of those people, as well as whether or not they wish to return to our national territory. This is so the Mexican and Guatemalan Governments can make the necessary arrangements. It is also important to note that the approval of the Mexican Government is necessary to carry out the visit. Informal talks have already begun with the Mexican ambassador to find out if this visit is possible, and what conditions for it would be. We will let you know as soon as we have received a definite answer.

2. VISIT TO RELOCATION CENTERS FOR DISPLACED PERSONS [subhead]

Referring to your intention of visiting the places where displaced persons have been relocated in the interior, these people are now returning to their places of origin or else to the government humanitarian care centers—either to seek the general amnesty or simply to receive care and join the nation's normal activities. However, the government is ready and willing to provide all possible cooperation for you to ascertain the situation of those people, the measures being implemented to relocate them, and the respect for their decision to normalize their lives within the framework of Guatemalan laws.

Referring to this, allow me to report that my government has information indicating that more than 1,600 persons have accepted the government's care. Even though it is not possible to ascertain exactly how many have been displaced due to violent actions in the past or by the violent actions of outlawed groups, the figure is calculated at approximately 5,000 to 6,000 persons. The Ministry of Development or the Ministry of Defense can

give you more information on this whenever you request it. Please indicate when you, and the government delegates in the commission, will carry out your visits.

3. NATIONAL DIALOGUE [subhead]

The government has enthusiastically welcomed the ideas discussed by the commission during our talks with you. The government has particularly welcomed the possibility of renewing the dialogue with all the legally registered political parties in the country, and with the social sectors that—due to their importance as an organization or institution—may participate in a discussion of national problems. They may thus present ideas for solving those problems in such a way that a national consensus can be reached on our general goals, despite the ideological and organizational differences that may exist among the participants.

It is particularly important to emphasize that the government of the Republic considers all the political, social, or economic sectors that have accepted the people's sovereignty as the legitimate instrument for settling their differences, to possess the legitimate right to participate in the dialogue. Their participation is necessary to adopt the most important decisions for our nation, given that they have accepted the Constitution of the Republic as the legal framework for carrying out their activities. The Constitution establishes peaceful and pluralistic mechanisms to guarantee a peaceful coexistence among Guatemalans. This is the basis for achieving an atmosphere of political stability and being able to join efforts for achieving the economic development and welfare of the Guatemalan people.

Consequently, we recognize that the political parties, the social sectors, and the economic sectors that operate within this framework are the valid and legitimate interlocutors to discuss the destiny of our nation.

4. TALKS REQUESTED BY THE URNG [subhead]

Referring to the URNG letter that you delivered at their request which proposes the renewal of talks or "dialogues" with the government of the Republic, allow me to state the following:

4.1. The government established talks with the organization so that its members could learn about the government's position concerning their possible participation in the political life of the nation. This could be summarized in the following way:

Because it was elected by the people, the legitimate Government of Guatemala has striven to create the proper conditions so that every person, organization, and group—without ideological discrimination—can participate in the nation's political life, exercise their constitutional rights, and respect their constitutional duties. Within this framework, the government has endeavored to provide all Guatemalans with the highest degree of security possible. Considering its limitations, the government seeks to increase and improve this capacity as time goes by. So far, political and social groups that are operating within the law have enjoyed this security. Therefore, that group (URNG) and its members can participate in the national political life without any ideological limitations, other than what the law imposes on any political and social activity. This means that its commitment to peaceful and unarmed political participation must be made clear. In order to facilitate this participation, the government issued an amnesty decree that is broad and appropriate. Although members of this group may have, with their violent acts, perpetrated common crimes related to their activities, they will not be tried, so that they may rejoin civilian life.

4.2 Therefore, the Guatemalan Government's stance should be interpreted as follows:

a) There have been talks with this group. These talks cannot resume without a clear political commitment to participate in national life, peacefully and unarmed.

b) Should this stance be conveyed to the Reconciliation Commission, the government would agree to resume talks through this commission. The goal is to propitiate the withdrawal of these groups from the armed struggle and have them participate in politics within the constitutional framework. The government will try to expedite the mechanisms that will enable the leaders and members of that organization to accept the amnesty and rejoin civilian life within the law.

c) When the commitment to participate in politics is confirmed, the government will take the necessary steps so that the armed groups, which the URNG claims to represent, can suspend their armed or clandestine activities. The government will do this by guaranteeing, through mechanisms that can be agreed upon by the commission, that they [armed groups] will not be physically repressed or legally persecuted by the security authorities while they lawfully execute their constitutional duty to punish crimes.

d) When these actions are complete, the government will provide these groups with the facilities that all of the country's political and social groups are entitled to, so they can properly participate in politics.

4.3 When they have joined the national political life, the government will establish a dialogue with them, as well as with the other political parties mentioned in point three of this letter. The purpose of the dialogue is to discuss the nation's problems and the management of the government of the Republic. Therefore, it is necessary to stress that the dialogue can only be established with political groups that respect the sovereignty of the people, respect the laws of the nation, and agree to operate within the constitutional framework, since this is the fundamental guideline approved by the people.

The only talks possible with groups that are outside the Constitution and the law, or with any group that wishes to conduct armed actions, are talks to integrate those groups into the country's political life and to strengthen peace and democracy. To begin a dialogue with them would legitimize violent actions by the left wing, the right wing, or by any ideological movement. This would exclude those who truly respect the will of the people; that is, the majority. This would be tantamount to attacking the very essence of democracy, a system where the majority rules while respecting the minority.

Accept this letter in reply to your letter so that you can forward, to whom it may concern, the stand of the Guatemalan Government. We assure you of our strong commitment to achieve peace, stability, respect for the law, and the fundamental will of the people.

Marco Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo, president of the Republic

Case of Talks With 'Guerrillas' Said 'Closed'

PA202326 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 2150 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 20 Jan (REUTER)—The Guatemalan Government will not sit at the negotiating table with the guerrillas again, and this case is "closed," Foreign Minister Alfonso Cabrera Hidalgo has stated.

Meanwhile, the Army sent a letter to the director of the opposition daily EL GRAFICO in which it noted that the Esquipulas II agreement requests the governments of Central America to begin a dialogue with "all the unarmed domestic opposition groups and with those that accept the offered amnesty."

Cabrera Hidalgo said Guatemala does not have any obligation to talk with the guerrillas because their case is definitely closed. He stated that the government's obligation is to urge the rebel groups to lay down their arms and noted: This is what the Esquipulas II agreement states, and "we have reiterated this call."

Last week, the URNG again urged the government to begin a dialogue. Prior to the San Jose summit of presidents, the URNG, through the National Reconciliation Commission, sent the government a document requesting a new dialogue. [passage omitted]

First Lady Comments on Belize, Recognition

PA181255 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 13 Jan 88 p 19

[Excerpts] Flores City, Peten Department—According to remarks made by Guatemalan first lady Raquel Blandon de Cerezo, the government will approve a statute of convenience with Belize. This is tantamount to a tacit recognition of the independence of that disputed territory. Mrs Cerezo made those remarks while inaugurating a departmental fair in this city. [passage omitted]

The first lady remarked that she is trying to host a meeting with the governors of the Mexican states of Quintana Roo, Chiapas, and Campeche. This meeting could be held in Tikal in the coming months. Its purpose is to seek a rapprochement with neighboring countries.

As for Belize, the government will sign a statute of convenience with officials of that disputed territory.

Mrs Cerezo did not provide details of this statute. However, she noted that Guatemalans must become friendly with their Belizean brothers, and she suggested that some diplomatic steps have been taken in this respect.

The first lady hinted that the statute will solve the problem with Belize, which constitutes a clear recognition of the independence of that area. [passage omitted]

Honduras

Military Unit Disbanded To End 'Speculation'

PA170733 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 14 Jan 88 p 8

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa—An official Armed Forces source has assured TIEMPO that the Intelligence Battalion known as the 3-16 was disbanded 4 months ago by agreement of the Armed Forces.

The reason given for disbanding the group supposedly responsible for the disappearance of more than 100 persons throughout the country was "to prevent speculation," according to our informant.

He affirmed that the conduct of this unit, which was apparently composed of persons selected from different battalions, "was of a strictly technical nature."

Our source, who asked not to be identified, stated that the technical nature of the 3-16 was oriented to the special needs of investigation.

Therefore, the duties previously reserved for the 3-16 have been assumed by the Intelligence Department of the Joint General Staff. [passage omitted]

Nicaragua

San Jose Meeting With Contras Set for 21 Jan

PA202110 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2047 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] It has just been announced in San Jose by Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rodrigo Madrigal Nieto that the meeting between the contra leaders and Nicaraguan Government officials, with the mediation of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, will take place tomorrow in the

Costa Rican capital. Madrigal Nieto said that the meeting, which Managua yesterday announced would take place on 28 January in San Jose, has been moved up 1 week.

Five Arrested CDN Leaders Released

PA201731 Managua Sistema Sandinista Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Five leaders of the Nicaraguan Democratic Coordinating Board [CDN] were released this afternoon. They were arrested after they returned from Guatemala, where they met with counterrevolutionary leaders.

Carlos Huembes, Cairo Manuel Lopez, Jaime Chamorro, Miriam Arguello, and Gilberto Cuadra were arrested by the Ministry of Interior to investigate their participation in the meeting with counterrevolutionary leaders.

The Ministry of Interior had announced an investigation of the meeting, which was reportedly part of the CIA's Oliverio Plan. This plan sought to create an alliance between the CDN and the counterrevolution. Another group of CDN leaders who participated in the meeting was released yesterday, following an investigation.

Economic Talks With Soviet Delegation Reported

Cooperation Agreements Signed

PA161901 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] With the signing of six cooperation agreements between the USSR and Nicaragua yesterday afternoon at the Ricardo Morales Aviles House in Managua, Soviet cooperation for the next 3 years has been guaranteed. The protocol contains ambitious plans for industry, commerce, mining, agriculture, and transportation, which are important sectors of Nicaragua's economy.

The agreements were signed by Aleksandr Kachanov, first deputy chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and by Commander of the Revolution Henry Ruiz, Nicaraguan minister of foreign cooperation. While the accords were being signed, Ruiz said there must be a solution to the foreign debt burdening Latin America, and that international cooperation is needed to find it. He referred to international economic disorder, and stated that during the most difficult times, people have received Soviet cooperation. Ruiz also referred to the efforts of the Central American governments to attain peace at the summit meeting in San Jose, Costa Rica, while the USSR is contributing to the same objective by signing a cooperation agreement for the next 3 years. He noted that the two countries, in almost 1 decade of cooperation, have shared relations that are a model of friendship, contributions to development, and the strengthening of peace.

During the signing of the cooperation agreement, which will support Nicaragua's economy for the next 3 years, Kachanov described Nicaragua's use of Soviet aid as efficient.

In addition to the completion of projects that are under way, the agreements cover new and large investments, including the creation of a banana company; the installation of an irrigation system for 6,000 hectares in Managua, Masaya, and Granada; and the reactivation of the coffee industry. According to the protocol, energy, transportation, and mining companies will be created, or these sectors will be strengthened.

In evaluating the cooperation for 1987, Kachanov said a series of projects have been completed, but that further progress must be made. Kachanov, who is leading the Soviet delegation to the Nicaragua-USSR Intergovernmental Joint Commission, announced that during 1988-90 other forms of cooperation will be sought for Nicaragua. He noted that the new forms of cooperation will include the creation of mixed bilateral businesses between the USSR and Nicaragua that will even allow other countries to join the enterprises. Nevertheless, he stressed the efficiency of existing firms.

Henry Ruiz Opens 3d Session

PA161724 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] We will only accept peace with dignity, and we are determined to use all means available to achieve it, Minister of Foreign Cooperation Henry Ruiz stated during the inauguration of the third session of the Nicaragua-USSR Intergovernmental Joint Commission.

As for the Esquipulas peace process, Ruiz termed it an expression of the emergence of Latin and Central American unity. Ruiz said the session was very important because bilateral trade for 1988-90 will be discussed.

[Begin Ruiz recording] I also believe this third session is being held in a new international context. There is hope due to the disarmament agreements signed in Washington last December. This session is also being held within the framework of the Esquipulas peace efforts. These efforts certainly are an expression of the emergence of Latin and Central American unity, and the consolidation of Central American historical links. We have held these sessions under new circumstances. The important thing is they will solve—with the use of new methods, and without prejudice—political conflicts so that peace can be achieved, so we can call ourselves true brothers, and so we can dedicate our energy and talents to creative work to benefit our people.

Dear Comrade Aleksandr Kachanov, I also feel we are doing this in the spirit of the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution. I would like to greet with great respect, admiration, and affection the efforts made by the CPSU and the Soviet

Government and people to renew the strength of Soviet socialism, so we and other peoples of the world can increasingly benefit from this system of government. Perestroyka will bring about more socialism, more peace, and more progress.

In sum, dear Comrade Kachanov, dear Soviet comrades, and dear Nicaraguan comrades, this third session of the commission, which will cover the period of 1988 to 1990, is important for our countries. During this period, the revolution of the Sandinist people will celebrate its first decade, the USSR will have laid the groundwork for perestroika, and both historical processes will have brought hopes of peace for the world. [end recording]

Kachanov Addresses Commission

PA151345 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] The third session of the Nicaragua-USSR Intergovernmental Joint Commission was inaugurated yesterday at the Ricardo Morales Aviles Building. The session was opened by Henry Ruiz, commander of the revolution and minister of foreign cooperation; and Aleksandr Kachanov, first deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations.

During the inauguration of the first working session of the two delegations, Commander Ruiz expressed the Nicaraguan people's confidence in the results of the talks. For his part, Kachanov reaffirmed the Soviet delegation's readiness to make every effort to ensure the success of the session.

The two delegations will hold simultaneous meetings with various Nicaraguan ministers and will visit projects financed by the Soviet Government and people.

Kachanov said the USSR is prepared to develop cooperation with Nicaragua in all sectors. He stated that the USSR considers the development of productive sectors to be a very important task in efforts to face the situation afflicting the Nicaraguan economy.

On inaugurating the third session of the mixed commission, Kachanov said his delegation is prepared to make every effort to seek new and efficient ways to help achieve the desired levels of economic cooperation with Nicaragua.

[Begin Kachanov recording in Russian, fading into Spanish translation] As Comrade Henry Ruiz has just said, it is up to us to review the efforts to implement agreements reached in the area of economic, commercial, and scientific-technical cooperation.

We also plan to review the success of joint activities carried out during this period, and we will discuss the basic guidelines of our cooperation for the 3-year period ending in 1990.

I would now like to point out that since the second meeting of the joint commission, economic, commercial, scientific, and technical cooperation has grown stronger. At the same time, we realize that great tasks lie ahead of us to increase the efficiency of our cooperation so that we can achieve practical results. [end recording]

The drafting of a summary of the work for implementing economic, commercial, scientific, and technical agreements is the principal mission of the Soviet delegation to the third Nicaragua—USSR joint commission. Kachanov stated that the report will review the achievements for the period established by the second session. During the inauguration of the third session, the head of the Soviet delegation noted that the members of his delegation will hold meetings with Nicaraguan cabinet ministers to decide upon the forms of cooperation that Nicaraguan institutions require.

Ruiz on USSR Trade, Aid

PA191945 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Minister of Foreign Cooperation Henry Ruiz stated in a news conference that the Soviet Union's cooperation has increased. In 1985, the two countries established the principles for the USSR-Nicaraguan mixed commission to outline the supply of merchandise, raw materials, machinery, technical assistance, and development plans.

Commander Ruiz, after bidding farewell to the USSR delegation, which recently visited Nicaragua, said that during its recent third session, the commission also renegotiated the protocol debt with the USSR. A proposal was also presented to renegotiate the debt for 1991.

[Begin Ruiz recording] In 1985, we established the principles for the mixed USSR-Nicaraguan commission. That same year, we established the bases for a 2-year agreement that was (?implemented) in 1985...I mean 1986-87. Because the agreement ended in 1987, we again established a framework and guidelines to continue developing our relations during 1988-90. Consequently, our relations were formally and officially established 2 years ago; and we now possess the basis for establishing the framework for our relations during the 1988-90 period. This is the essential thing.

What was the purpose of this meeting? We discussed the level of aid to Nicaragua, and we established that the year the agreement is implemented serves as a basis for the next year. In other words, aid to Nicaragua in 1988 cannot be less than the aid in 1987; and the aid in 1987 cannot be less than that of 1986. I thus wish to clear up a series of doubts that arose concerning our relations with the Soviet Union. Soviet aid to Nicaragua has increased; it has increased in volume and [words indistinct] merchandise. Given the volume of our economic ties, they tend to increase instead of deteriorate.

What did the mixed commission discuss? We discussed all the aspects that we have more or less explained. We also reviewed the normal supply of merchandise, supplies, and raw materials. We noted the problems concerning machinery and equipment; and we covered technical and development aid. Those are the three important chapters analyzed in a relationship like this. [Words indistinct] credit of 245 million rubles for merchandise and raw materials, and 70 million rubles for machinery and equipment. There are also the so-called economic credits, meaning the credits for financing development projects.

We have an old credit of 67 million rubles that cannot be disbursed for another sector; we must use the funds for development projects. We still have to distribute 30 million rubles of that credit. We must review the situation before distributing this 30 million rubles and we must review what has been done, make sure that everything is proceeding as planned, etc. Then we can distribute the 30 million rubles in a given project and present a request for additional resources—in this case 40 million rubles—that will be used for other projects. Consequently, the remaining 30 million rubles will be added to the investment program, plus a new project for 40 million rubles. This represents the funding for an investment project and technical aid.

Given the changes in the Soviet economy, meaning the results of the perestroyka, which affects the economic structures and the implementation of new principles that seek greater independence for their enterprises, this year we will begin a new system of cooperation with the Soviet Union. This has resulted in a banana project. Nicaragua and the Soviet Union signed a compensation agreement to increase our banana production. At the start, Nicaragua proposed that the Soviet Union participate in the production activities of approximately 2,500 hectares. We will begin to implement the project in approximately 700 hectares. How will the Soviet Union participate, and why is this termed a compensation agreement? The Soviet Union will provide the supplies, machinery, and capital. We will pay the Soviet Union with our product under the principle of preferential prices for Nicaragua. This mechanism is not part of a commercial agreement, nor is it part of technical aid; and it is not included in any of the three chapters. This is a new type of relationship. The advantage for us is that the enterprises will operate more efficiently, and that the resources are available as in a joint venture. This resembles a joint venture but the property and plantations are not compromised; they represent a capital investment to develop our country's banana production.

Furthermore, I wish to state the following: Within the framework of this third session, we have also renegotiated Nicaragua's foreign debt with the Soviet Union. The 1980-81 protocols signed with the Soviet Union are now worth approximately 1.1 billion rubles. [end recording]

Panama

Cuban Foreign Minister Arrives 16 Jan

PA160347 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, Cuban minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Panama this afternoon. The Cuban foreign minister will hold talks with his Panamanian counterpart, and then will leave Monday [18 January] for South America.

Malmierca and his wife, Maria Elena Silva de Malmierca, were met at Omar Torrijos Airport by acting Foreign Minister Jose Maria Cabrera, as well as by high-ranking officials from the Cuban Embassy and the Panamanian Foreign Ministry.

Meets With Gen Noriega

PA191654 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Today Isidoro Malmierca Peoli, Cuban minister of foreign affairs, met with General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander in chief of the Panama Defense Forces.

A military spokesman described Malmierca's visit as a courtesy visit. The spokesman added that Malmierca wrote in the visitors book that his meeting with Gen Noriega was one of solidarity, but he provided no further details on the topics discussed during the 20-minute meeting.

Foreign Minister Malmierca wrote the following in the visitors book: Ours is more a fraternal than an official visit. This is the Cuban people's and government's expression of solidarity with the Panamanian people and their struggle to apply the ideas of Torrijos, to exercise its sovereignty over the Canal, and to defend its independence.

During his meeting with Noriega, Malmierca was accompanied by Cuban Ambassador to Panama Lazaro Mora.

Two Radio Stations Permitted To Reopen

PA201520 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 20 Jan 88 p 15

[Unattributed article: "'Continente' Turned Into Junk]

[Text] Prosecutor Alfredo Jimenez reopened radio stations KW Continente and Radio Sonora yesterday morning, following 7 months of illegal closure.

Friends and relatives of Rodrigo Correa, the owner of the radio stations, gathered in front of the studios and sang the National Anthem as the doors were being opened.

The group then shouted antigovernment slogans, specificially against General Noriega, as they waved white handkerchiefs.

KW Continente was closed by the Attorney General's Office on 8 June 1987.

In discussing the condition in which he found his station's studios, Correa stated: "They are in a disastrous condition."

He noted that he cannot yet estimate the technical damage, which was caused by the long period of time the equipment remained unused. Correa added that this will be done when the electricity is again connected, at which time the station's technicians will be able to assess the damage.

He noted that the station's transmission tower, not the studio, was most affected by its period of inactivity.

Correa commented that the station will follow the same line as it did in the past, since its newscasts are very responsible. He addded: "We did nothing to warrant our closure."

Correa announced that he will file a suit against the officials that ordered his radio stations closed, for the damage caused.

'Dozens' of Demonstrators Call for Freedom

PA210240 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Jan 88

[Text] Panama City, 20 Jan (ACAN-EFE)—Dozens of demonstrators today demanded freedom of speech and assembly from the government during a rally here that was sponsored by the opposition Civic Crusade. The demonstration was held near the KW Continente radio station, which was reopened on Tuesday by judicial officials under the provisions of the amnesty. It had been closed for 6 months on charges of subverting public order.

Although the demonstration was peaceful, roughly 30 riot policemen were on guard in the area, although they did not approach the demonstrators. The policemen were continuously booed and harangued by the demonstrators, who complained the police were photographing and videotaping them.

Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the opposition Christian Democratic Party, legislators from that party, and leaders of the Civic Crusade leaders attended the rally.

Legislator Omayra Correa, who is the owner of KW Continente and a dissident in the Labor Party, which is part of the government coalition, promised that the radio station will be back on the air within a few weeks. Correa criticized President Eric Arturo Delvalle and General Manuel Antonio Noriega, commander of the Panama Defense Forces, whose ouster the Civic Crusade demands.

Following the 20-minute rally, the demonstrators withdrew without incident.

PDC Head: Noriega 'Obstacle' to Democracy

PA202227 Panama City EL SIGLO in Spanish 20 Jan 88 p 12

[By Aneldo Arosemena]

[Text] Christian Democratic Party [PDC] President Dr Ricardo Arias Calderon has told EL SIGLO that the separation of General Manuel Antonio Noriega from his post as commander in chief of the Defense Forces is essential for the return of democracy to the country.

Arias Calderon said Noriega is the main obstacle preventing the Panama Defense Forces from taking a path leading away from intervention in public life and toward a constitutional and professional role.

Arias stated it is necessary to reorganize the Electoral Tribunal because its members are responsible for the electoral fraud of 1984 and thus cannot guarantee that the 1989 elections will be clean.

Arias believes that the fate of Gen Noriega and that of the Defense Forces as an institution is being discussed within the governing Democratic Revolutionary Party and the Defense Forces. According to Arias, the eight-point proposal of Jose I. Blandon for Noriega's departure is an outcome of such discussions.

The PDC president said that the reopening of the media is a first step toward reclaiming democratic rights. He noted that it is necessary to struggle to secure the freedom of assembly, which remains suppressed by decree, and for suitable conditions for political refugees to return to Panama.

Arnulfo Arias Congratulates Reopened Newspaper

PA202144 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 20 Jan 88 p 1-a

[Text] Arnulfo Arias Madrid told LA PRENSA by telephone that "the reopening of the communications media closed by the military dictatorship since July is a victory for the people." He is a three-time president of Panama, currently the leader of the Authentic Panamenist Party, and has for the past several weeks been in the United States.

"All Panamanians, men and women, youths and adults, have waged a civic, heroic, and admirable struggle to forge the unity required for the restoration of a government based upon justice and democracy. Noriega must go—it is written and decided," Dr Arias said.

"I am in the United States working to achieve a solution that will fulfill the hopes of the Panamanian people. To this end, I am keeping in close contact with the courageous leaders of the National Civic Crusade. I congratulate my friends at LA PRENSA and wish them success in their activities for the progress and well-being of the fatherland," he concluded.

CRITICA Analyzes Opposition Proposal

PA110245 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 8 Jan 88 p 24

[Analysis by CRITICA's editorial staff of the Civic Crusade's "proposal" to stage a "coup d'etat" against the government]

[Text] Without a signature or a hint as to who or what institutions are responsible for it, an alleged "proposal" from the ill-named "national Civic Crusade" that is circulating calls for a coup d'etat against a government that is constitutionally overseeing the fate of the Panamanian nation.

We are referring to the typical anonymous document that should not deserve any attention since it lacks legal and moral support. The "proposals" whose authors are afraid to defend and whose intellectual authors do not dare to sign do not deserve the time wasted in reading them.

However, there is a coincidence that compels our attention in this case. Some time ago, the front page of LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA published a report from Costa Rica by a foreign correspondent. That report cited statements by Ricardo Arias Calderon, president of the Christian Democratic Party and second vice presidential candidate. He was defeated in the 1984 elections as part of a slate headed by Dr Arnulfo Arias and Mr Carlos Rodriguez, who has been residing in the United States for many years.

Those statements, considered to be a call to stage a "coup d'etat," fully and definitely match a "proposal" that is circulating now, one that is reportedly attributed to the ill-named "national Civic Crusade." The document and the statements are based on two basic principles: the toppling of the current government through violent means and subversive systems, and its replacement by an absolute dictatorship with not only executive, but also legislative, judicial, and electoral powers. The only difference is that in the first proposal, the second vice president was asked to participate in the planned government junta, while the new proposal totally eliminated this aspect.

Thus, we can conclude that the ill-named "national Civic Crusade" has adopted the plan of Mr Arias Calderon. And this is understandable, because when a call to stage violent subversion and topple the government through a coup d'etat was published in a Panamanian newspaper, "Crusade" leaders did not deny that it reflects their own plans and intentions.

What is not yet known is what organizations, associations, labor and trade unions, and clubs within the "Crusade" have embraced the subversive plan Mr Arias Calderon drafted. It is also not known whether the "Crusade," which is composed of businessmen who organize motorcades, burn vehicles, destroy traffic lights, and litter streets, also includes the political parties that were defeated in the 1984 elections. Some of these parties did not even receive enough votes to continue existing legally.

However, the close link between the two is evident. The anonymous "proposal" itself states that the government junta that will assume executive, legislative, judicial, and electoral duties will include a member appointed by those opposition parties. It adds that decisions will be adopted "by a majority" of the other two members [as published], who the crusade itself would appoint.

Therefore, we are confronting an incredible situation in which an anonymous group of leaders of associations and clubs, who do not have enough members to register a party, are proposing the violent ouster of an alliance of parties that represents a majority of the population, and the transformation of opposition parties into a simple minority subjected to the absolutist wishes of their planned dictatorial government junta.

It is also noteworthy that the self-styled "civic leaders" who would rescue democracy and restore alleged moral values have proposed, as a basis to the solution of Panama's problems, the establishment of an absolutely and totally undemocratic regime. This regime would be chosen by a very small minority of businessmen and would assume the executive, legislative, judicial, and electoral functions.

Obviously, since the proposal begins by calling for the removal of the president, the vice presidents, the National Legislative Assembly, the Supreme Court, the Electoral Tribunal, the comptroller general, and the attorneys general, the dictators would select for themselves and by themselves the full government roster—including those charged with organizing and directing the electoral process. They can even legislate through "executive decrees" authorized by a "majority," namely, all those appointed by the Crusade members themselves.

It is so because the Crusade members wish to become the supreme arbiters of the nation's destiny, not only now, but also in the future, for they would virtually decide what the results of the elections would be. They would appoint themselves as the only spokesmen for the nation's majority, because they epitomize all of the wisdom, honesty, and power of the Panamanian people.

It is easy to surmise where this absolutist haughtiness comes from. They certainly do not represent any political party and, therefore, do not have either a few or many votes. They have not been selected in any way to participate in public debate. They do not even have organized groups of the various social, cultural, or opinion sectors. They instead belong only and exclusively to the managerial class, which has never participated in civic activities or nationalist movements to consolidate, strengthen, or develop Panama's political independence.

The "power" they think they have and expect to employ to overthrow the government and to impose their absolutist dictatorial rule stems solely and exclusively from the directives and support of a foreign neocolonialist sector. And even though it is evident that the cost of this support would be subservience to the political, economic, and military interests of a foreign power, they are prepared to pay it in exchange for achieving their exorbitant sectarian ambitions.

This is the attitude of a group that is fortunately very small and lacks popular support. It completely identifies those who do not dare sign the plan to assume responsibility for it. However, their identity shows through the rules, principles, and strategies appearing in the "proposal." It is clear and evident that those who would be selected to form the 2-member majority in the dictatorial "government junta" would be the Vallarinoses, the Mallols, the Eisenmanns, the Tribaldoses, the Barriases, and the De la Lastras who form part of the PDC. That is why they have appropriated the subversive proposals put forth by PDC leader Arias Calderon, and that is why they want the MOLIRENA [Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement] members, the Arnulfistas [followers of former President Arnulfo Arias], the PAPO [Popular Action Party] members, and Escalonistas [followers of Authentic Liberal Party leader Arnulfo Escalona] to select only one member of the triumvirate. This single person would always be a humiliated and submissive member in the minority and without any decisionmaking or ruling power.

This also explains the haughty statement by the businessmen against the country's labor majority, who would be denied the right to salary increases and other social benefits. Instead, the plan announces a dictatorial policy involving more and greater "encouragement" and "incentives" for the businessmen, who finance and manage Arias Calderon's PDC. That party is neither Christian nor democratic.

Regretfully for them, the Christian Democratic Crusade members do not even have the ability to launch initiatives.

Observe how the "priority areas" of their dictatorial government junta servilely copies what the government has already implemented: creation of a magistracy for a person who represents the people and is trusted even by the opposition; actualization of the Electoral Census, reforms of the Electoral Law, and the creation of an Advisory and Supervisory Commission for the electoral process. Even the date of the next elections has been established by current constitutional resolutions, which were approved by ALL the political parties, including the opposition parties that are composed of the untarnished Civic Crusade members.

The only difference between what the Civic Crusade dictators and the effective democracy being developed in the country propose is precisely that the government organizations that have been established according to the Constitution will be replaced by an all-embracing, absolute, and even tyrannical power that would operate with typically Nazi-fascist systems. This is a tribute that the Civic Crusade members offer to the Arnulfistas, perhaps hoping that this syrupy talk will enable the followers of Dr Arnulfo Arias to swallow the millstone that the Civic Crusade members are trying to push down their throats.

Argentina

Further on Response Measures in Rico Case

II Army Corps Head Cited

PY201316 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1638 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Monte Caseros (Corrientes), 19 Jan (DYN)—The II Army Corps, General Juan Mabragana, today said there was neither combat nor shooting, "except for some warning shots," during the operations yesterday to recover the 4th Infantry Regiment in Monte Caseros.

Mabragana said that only two people, who are now hospitalized at the Central Military Hospital, were seriously injured by the explosion of a mine. Another person reportedly received minor injuries in the same incident, he said.

Mabragana said discipline was restored as a result of having "a commander elected by the people," a reference to President Alfonsin.

Mabragana said the intention of the forces under his command was to "exert pressure" on the rebels but not to shoot at them.

Mabragana today announced that the 35 officers and 100 noncommissioned officers of the 4th Regiment in Monte Caseros are "all" in custody at the 4th Regiment barracks, and that only the draftees are at their posts.

Mabragana reported that following former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico's surrender yesterday, the regiment is being "reorganized" with officers and noncommissioned officers from other parts of the country, and that he is in charge of the regiment.

Mabragana said: "The situation is normal and the regiment is being reorganized" because 35 officers "who will be tried by the military court" are in custody at the regiment barracks.

Mabragana said: "1,500 soldiers from infantry brigades and heavy and light tank units participated in the operations of the loyal troops." However, he did not elaborate.

Concerning the differing beliefs and viewpoints of Rico and the loyal officers, Mabragana said the former lieutenant colonel "broke the subordination and the discipline that are the main pillars of the Armed Forces; that discipline comes from a commander in chief elected by the people," referring to President Raul Alfonsin.

Mabragana admitted that during the antisubversive struggle, he participated "in repressive operations ordered by the constitutional government." He said he "supports amnesty for all those who were involved in the dirty war except for those who were involved in robberies or violations, crimes which, incidentally, have already been punished by the military court."

Mabargana added: "There are problems that have been solved by the Due Obedience Law and by the Full Stop Law, and there are problems that will be solved only by oblivion."

Mabragana also reported that "Rico's surrender occurred shortly before 1700 at the No 3 guard post of the 2d Infantry Brigade located at the intersection of the Urquiza railroad tracks and National Highway No 14, in the suburbs of Monte Caseros, about 200 meters from any houses."

Mabragana said Rico "appeared saying he wanted to surrender." Mabragana then sent "General Hugo Fernandez, the 2d Brigade commander, as an emissary to find out if this was true."

Fernandez "returned with the news that it was indeed true" and then Mabragana met Rico at the No 3 guard post, informing him that he was under arrest and sending him to Curuzu Cuatia aboard a helicopter.

Mabragana said that all the operations were conducted by generals and colonels, and that "there were no desk generals here; everyone participated" in this operation.

Concerning the regiment, all the officers and noncommissioned officers are in custody there. They will remain at the regiment pending a decision by the military court on whether they will stay there during the pretrial inquest or be transported to another unit.

All regiment posts, even the guard posts, have been filled by officers and noncommissioned officers from other units. The draftees, who were not involved at all, are all that remain of the garrison's previous personnel.

Mabragana said he thinks soldiers may have been posted at Rico's office but they "did not get involved in any way whatsoever."

Mabragana said that "during the operations the intention (of the loyal troops) was to exert pressure but not to shoot."

Mabragana added: "Thus, no shots were fired except for some warning shots."

Asked why he said he "believed" the situation was normal, Mabragana replied: "I said I believe it, just as I would say I believe in God."

A news conference was held at noon for Argentine, Brazilian, Uruguayan, and Spanish reporters at the office of the 4th Regiment commander, where Mabragana will remain until the situation is normalized once again with the arrival of new officers.

More on Mabragana Remarks

PY201842 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1150 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Monte Caseros, Corrientes, 20 Jan (NA)—The commander of the II Army Corps, General Juan Mabragana, has stated that the amnesty issue does not "concern" me or "my military jurisdiction, but the political jurisdiction which I respect and obey."

Mabragana released a document in which he denies press reports that he had proposed an amnesty law that would exclude those who were involved in robberies and rape during the former military regime.

The following is the text of the communique:

"Having learned that some news media have released a report on the statement I made at the end of the military operations, that amnesty has to be granted to those who are still standing trial but not to those who have been sentenced, I want to make it clear that this is not my opinion. Furthermore, granting amnesty to those who have not been sentenced would be a legal mistake.

"Therefore, if any news media has released such information it means that it did not understand my words or did not interpret them properly. I give this explanation in view of the many questions and responses that this issue has elicited.

"I also want to stress that the many persistent questions that have been asked on this subject were not expressly answered, because this is an issue that does not concern my military jurisdiction but the political jurisdiction which I respect and obey.

"This communique is intended to clarify my personal position, in case any question on this issue received poorly worded answers."

'Nationalist' Seeks Asylum

PY192122 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2056 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jan (DYN)—Vice President Victor Martinez today reported that nationalist leader Oscar Castrogiovanni, nicknamed Castroge, has sought asylum in the Paraguayan Embassy in this capital.

Castroge stayed at the Bella Vista residence with Aldo Rico, and during the past few days he was seen throwing pamphlets outside to military units. The pamphlets contained slogans supporting Rico and his rebel group.

Martinez also stated that Alfonsin will travel to Spain after 29 January.

Paraguayan Envoy on Asylum

PY201543 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1327 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jan (TELAM)—Paraguayan Ambassador to Argentina Miguel Bestard has said that Argentine ultranationalist activist leader Oscar Castrogiovanni, nicknamed Castroge, who remains isolated in the Paraguayan Embassy in Buenos Aires, could immediately travel to Paraguay if the Argentine Government agrees.

Bestard added that Castroge could not be regarded as a refugee, even though in fact he is one. He said he is waiting for instructions from the Paraguayan Foreign Ministry before deciding what to do.

Bestard talked to journalists at the embassy, located at 2545 Las Heras Street in Buenos Aires. He said that Castroge cannot talk to or receive anyone, or speak on the phone with anyone, while he is at the embassy.

Rico Supporters Away From Posts

PY201856 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1715 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jan (NA)—Lieutenant Colonel Dario Fernandez Maguer, whose dismissal caused an outbreak of indiscipline in the 3d Infantry Regiment of La Tablada in September 1987, is absent from his post and the reason for this is not known. Also, Lieutenant Colonels Polo and Valiente were reportedly given 20-day arrest sentences.

It has been reported that Polo and Valiente were punished for not being where they were supposed to be during the military crisis.

According to military regulations, any active duty officer on leave must not only ask for authorization; he must also report where he is. When he gets to a place he must appear and report he is there.

The officers, all lieutenant colonels, who are not at their posts are: Enrique Venturino, Aldo Rico's deputy during the Holy Week event; Angel Daniel Leon; Dario Fernandez Maguer; and Alonso and Arturo Gonzalez Naya.

Leon escaped from the 5th Infantry Brigade of San Miguel de Tucuman when he was being placed under arrest after trying to incite rebellion in the 19th Infantry Regiment in that city.

Gonzalez Naya escaped by violating a 15-day arrest sentence he was serving in the Army headquarters, Libertador Building.

All these officers are known supporters of Aldo Rico.

Fernandez Maguer was relieved from command of the 3d Infantry Regiment of La Tablada before serving a 20-day arrest for his involvement in the Holy Week events.

When Fernandez left the regiment, he publicly said he was Aldo Rico's "friend."

Further on Officers' Status

PY210148 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2238 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jan (DYN) — Military sources today revealed that Lieutenant Colonel Arturo Gonzalez Naya, former commander of the 3d Infantry Regiment based in La Tablada, who provoked an incident with Army Chief of Staff General Jose Dante Caridi some months ago, escaped on the night of 16 January, at the start of the rebellion, from the premises of the General Staff, where he was under arrest on orders of the Army leadership.

Gonzalez Naya, who escaped from the Libertador Building, is to be included with the other fugitives of the abortive rebellion headed by former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico. All the fugitives had important roles in the Easter week crisis.

The whereabouts of Lieutenant Colonel Angel Daniel Leon continues to be a mystery. At the time of the Easter week uprising Leon was commander of the 19th Infantry Regiment based in San Miguel de Tucuman, and he came out in support of that uprising. During the recent uprising he was again able to make the same regiment revolt, but he escaped after the surrender.

The whereabouts of Lieutenant Colonel Enrique Venturini has also been unknown since he dined with Rico at the Bella Vista residence. That was the night that Rico disappeared, only to reemerge 1 day later in Corrientes Province.

It has been reported that Venturino, who had not been assigned a command and was "at the disposal" of the Army leadership, had no orders as to where he had to present himself; therefore, his situation is presumably not all that irregular.

Neither is there a warrant out for the arrest of former Major Ernesto Barreiro, who as a "former member of the military" is no longer under the orders of the Army.

The situation of Lieutenant Colonels Luis Polo and Jose Valiente has not yet been confirmed. According to military sources, they presumably presented themselves to units of the III Corps based in Cordoba, to which they had been assigned before Easter week, although at the time of the recent uprising they had no commands, and were at the disposal of the Army leadership.

Both of them were presumably punished for not having reported their current domiciles, but they answered the call of their commanders during the crisis.

The whereabouts of Lieutenant Colonel Dario Fernandez Maguer is also under investigation, although there is no warrant out for his capture.

Very high-level sectors of the civilian government are concerned about the existence of the fugitive Army personnel.

Judge Questions Detainees

PY202124 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1551 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jan (TELAM)—In the presence of his secretary, Gustavo Hornos, and federal prosecutors Mariano Ciafardini and Anibal Ibarra, Federal Judge Juan Edgardo Fegoli today continued questioning at the court those detained after the takeover of the metropolitan airport.

Despite the secrecy, the names of the detainees, who were reportedly from the Air Force, have been learned from judicial sources. They are: two vice commodores [vice comodores] whose surnames are Lavella and Puig; Majors Robles and Richiardelli; Major Julio Tuli, retired; and Ensign Julio Videla. The following people from the Air Force intelligence service were reportedly detained: Alberto Tellas and Oscar Calzada (lawyers), and Enrique Calzada.

The list of detainees that was obtained reportedly also includes Army Captain Alejandro Margarian, as well as civilian personnel identified as Rafael Cobo, Gabriel de Erquin, and Guillermo Ferrari.

In addition, the list reportedly includes federal police First Corporal Juan Jose Arviza, retired, and First Corporal Omar Cabrera. Noncommissioned officer Godogredo Puschiazo of the Argentine Naval Prefecture is reportedly also under arrest.

Rebel Officers at Magdalena

PY202301 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1955 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Magdalena, Buenos Aires Province, 20 Jan (NA)— Military sources have revealed that 140 officers and noncommissioned officers arrested for their participation in the rebellion headed by Aldo Rico have arrived in two Hercules planes, and they have been lodged in the Magdalena Military Prison.

Aldo Rico was transferred to this prison on 19 January.

The sources did not reveal where the arrested military officers came from.

Episcopal Conference Sends Message to Alfonsin

PY191515 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2125 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 18 Jan (NA)—Referring to recent military developments, the president of the Argentine Episcopal Conference, Cardinal Franciso Primatesta, today told President Raul Alfonsin that the "fatherland, concerned over the lack of common sense, demands a joint effort to find adequate remedies, with strength and unselfishness but also with the necessary flexibility."

Primatesta noted that "the supreme dignity of the nation and the ruling of the Constitution and laws comes before our dignity which, even if it has been offended, should be restored with the tools provided by the law."

The president of the National Episcopate said that he was expressing his opinion in "light of the developments that threaten the well-being of the nation and that create uncertainty and anxiety among our people"; therefore, "interpreting the feeling of the church I deem it necessary to make an appeal for common sense, and to dispel animosities."

Primatesta made this statement in a message sent, via telex, from the city of Cordoba to President Alfonsin. In the message, which was distributed by AICA [Argentina Catholic Information Agency], Primatesta states that "reconciliation is a truly Christian virtue," which "both culturally and political speaking is an Argentine virtue."

Quoting Pope Paul II, Primatesta states that "the full restoration of democratic institutions represents a privileged moment for the Argentine people to become increasingly aware that they must all participate responsibly in public life, each person through his own daily effort."

Primatesta added that "by exercising their rights and fulfilling their duties, Argentines will decisively contribute to the nation's well-being."

He then went on to say that "in order to achieve this much-desired well-being, we need order to be able to appreciate the value of each person and group, and of the supreme demands of a common well-being," as well as "justice, because justice brings peace."

Primatesta said that "the use of force by some groups to subject others is unacceptable and contradictory to the concept of true order and harmony."

He added that "the dignity of every Argentine citizen, and the very dignity of the nation, imposes on us these duties," since "the fatherland, concerned over the lack of common sense, urges us to construct, to jointly seek adequate remedies with strength and unselfishness, but also with the necessary flexibility."

Army Reports Bomb Explosion in Formosa

PY201707 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1654 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Jan (NA)—The Army General Staff at noon today released the following communique:

"The Army General Staff regrets to report that while an excavation project was being conducted in a sector of the 29th Mountain Infantry Regiment of Formosa, a bomb exploded for reasons that are still unknown.

"As a result of the explosion two civilians were killed and others were wounded.

"The military sector has begun an investigation and the federal judge has been informed."

Naval Prefecture Seize Taiwanese Trawler

PY191456 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1330 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 19 Jan (DYN)—It has been officially reported that the Argentine Naval Prefecture has seized a Taiwanese trawler illegally fishing for squid 197 nautical miles off the Argentine coast.

The trawler, identified as the "Yung-Shing," was captured by the Coast Guard ship "Prefecto Debres," the same ship that earlier this month seized two other trawlers that were illegaly fishing close to the border of Argentine jurisdictional waters.

According to the prefecture report, the "Yung-Shing" was seized early this morning at 44 degrees, 58 minutes south latitude, and 60 degrees, 16 minutes west longitude, 197 nautical miles off Punta Delgada.

The report adds that the presence of the ship was detected the day before, and that it turned its lights off and tried to flee toward international waters when the "Prefecto Debres" closed in.

The prefecture adds that at the moment of seizure the trawler had its gear deployed for catching squid. The ship's processing hold contained 450 kg of squid. An additional 250 kg were being frozen.

The trawler has 20 crew members. The captain is identified as Li Ching.

So far this month, the "Prefecto Debres" has captured the ROK trawler "Seyang" and the Japanese trawler "Kanes Higa-Maru 25" for illegal fishing. The first is under arrest at the port of Madryn and the other is at Quequen. Both trawlers have been placed at the disposal of the courts.

The "Yung-Shing" will arrive at Port Madryn at approximately 1000 tomorrow with its escort, the "Prefecto Debres."

Brazil

Government To Resume Payment of Debt Interest

PY201354 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega has said that Brazil is going to normalize as soon as possible its relations with its creditor banks. This means resuming payment of interest on the foreign debt this month, as long as payments do not exceed one-third of the monthly service.

The minister confirmed the government's decision to negotiate with the creditors a bridge loan to cover the obligations of the debt for 3 to 6 months.

Prohibition on Software Import Suspended

PY202253 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 20 Jan 88

[By Gal Valadares from the Science and Technology Ministry]

[Text] After holding a 2-hour meeting, the members of the National Council for Information Science and Automation [CONIN] voted 16 to 6 in favor of suspending the prohibition on registration and import of the MS-DOS 3.3 system, which is manufactured by the U.S. Company Microsoft.

The reason presented by CONIN spokesman Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega was that there is no similar system on the Brazilian market.

[Begin Nobrega recording, in progress] ...are the 3.0, 3.1, and 3.2. At the time of the decision, there was no national system similar to the 3.3 model. Therefore, it can be registered and imported. [end recording]

In the opinion of Science and Technology Minister Luis Henrique, the CONIN decision to authorize import of this Microsoft software system was very important because it proved that the Special Secretariat for Information Science [SEI] was not acting arbitrarily, as alleged.

[Begin Henrique recording] The decision is very relevant because it shows the SEI did not adopt arbitrary criteria to judge this case. The SEI decision was made based on data available at the time. This decision is consistent with SEI's criteria regarding the systems available at the time. The most important aspect of this decision is that after an exhaustive investigation and analysis of the system the SEI authorized its registration and import, instead of acting arbitrarily and subjectively, as some said. [end recording]

Asked whether the CONIN decision would prevent future U.S. Government retaliation against Brazilian products, Minister Henrique said this was a matter for Itamaraty to comment on, since CONIN was only responsible for enforcing the information science law on software.

Sarney on Computer Policy

PY182340 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 18 Jan 88

[Text] The law must be obeyed, President Jose Sarney said today during a meeting with eight ministers in Alvorada Palace. He was speaking about the Brazilian computer market policy. According to Civilian Household Minister Ronaldo Costa Couto, the president does not want the government to act against national or foreign interests. The president wants a satisfactory result between Brazil and the United States in the field of computer market policy, without harming Brazilian exports.

According to Minister Costa Couto, the president has given these orders before the National Council for Information Science and Automation meets because he wants the government to ease the argument between the two countries without harming Brazilian companies.

[Begin Costa Couto recording] It was a meeting held to give orders. The president was informed of all the current aspects of the computer market problem. The president ordered that all decisions made in this field respect the computer market law, that is, law No 2,232, as well as the rights of Brazilian and foreign companies. According to the president, there must be an effort to make Brazilian and foreign interests compatible, respecting the computer market law. [end recording]

The ministers of foreign affairs, industry and commerce, Navy, science and technology, SNI [National Service for Intelligence], and the civilian and military households were present at the meeting.

Malmierca, Sodre Discuss Various Issues

PY210209 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] On his 2d day in Brazil, Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca today discussed the South African situation with his Brazilan counterpart, Abreu Sodre. Malmierca told Sodre that Cuba will not create any difficulty with regard to an agreement on South Africa, as long as that country agrees to leave Namibia, stop attacking Angola, and withdraw its military support for the rebel group National Union for the Total Independence of Angola.

Abreu Sodre explained to Malmierca why Brazil did not break diplomatic relations with the Pretoria government. According to Abreu Sodre, to maintain a diplomatic mission in South Africa, even if it is a second-level mission, makes it possible for Brazil to observe directly the South African situation, and to maintain contact with opposition groups.

During the news conference he granted at Itamaraty, Malmierca commented on the Brazilian invitation for Fidel Castro to visit the country and the invitation for Jose Sarney to visit Cuba. According to Minister Malmierca, both presidents are looking forward to these visits, which will take place soon, although dates cannot be fixed yet. All we can do is hope the dates are not too far away, he said.

Regarding the Brazilian and Cuban foreign debts, Malmierca said the Cuban position is well known: The debt cannot be paid, and its payment cannot be requested. Even if the countries felt like paying them, they would not have funds to do so.

Sao Paulo Company Sells 200 Cannons to Libya

PY191052 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Jan 88 p A-15

[By Roberto Lopes]

[Excerpt] The Bernardini Company of Sao Paulo has sold 200 recoilless 106-mm cannons to the Libyan Army. The deal, worth approximately $10 million, was agreed upon during the 3d week of October 1987 in Tripoli by Ricardo Bernardini, technical director of the Brazilian company. When sought by FOLHA DE SAO PAULO at his office in Ipiranga district, south of Sao Paulo, engineer Bernardini said: "I will not make any comment about this matter."

According to the contract signed with the Libyan Government's import office, the first 20 cannons will be delivered by the second half of March, while the last shipment will be delivered by January 1989. The Brazilian cannons will be installed on jeep vehicles, some of which are Soviet-made and others Indian-made. The Bernardini cannons will equip the motorized reconnaissance units of Libya. Each cannon weighs 203 kg and fires 1 shot per minute. Its maximum range is 7,700 meters, but it is most effective against tanks, at a range of 1,000 meters. At that distance, the ammunition of this cannon can penetrate armor up to 450-mm thick. [passage omitted]

Chileans Occupying UN Office 'Dislodged'

PY210017 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Excerpt] The 11 Chilean leftists who had occupied the office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, have been dislodged. The had occupied the office for 45 days. They finally left when UN officials arrived today demanding that they peacefully vacate the premises.

Brazilian Lawyers Association representatives mediated in this case to prevent any violence. The Rio de Janeiro police had received a court order to forcibly dislodge the 11 leftists who had occupied the UN office.

The Chilean Marxist group had occupied the UN office because its members were afraid of being questioned by the Brazilian intelligence police with regard to the kidnapping of Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Carreno. [passsage omitted]

New Planning Minister Holds News Conference

PY210152 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2100 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Report by Candida Canedo from Belo Horizonte]

[Text] New Planning Minister Joao Batista de Abreu has said in Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais State, that he has no prejudice against the IMF. He also said his main goal is to reduce public expenses.

Minister de Abreu granted a news conference this afternoon at the Minas Gerais Finance Secretariat in Belo Horizonte. During the conference, he said he will assume his duties at SEPLAN [Planning Secretariat] aware that the real goal of this secretariat is to plan the government's medium- and long-term economic policies, although it is also in charge of controlling disbursements from the national budget, which is a very important way of controlling the public deficit.

Joao Batista de Abreu, who will have his first official meeting with President Sarney at 1500 tomorrow, commented on his position regarding Brazil's negotiation of its foreign debt:

[Begin Joao Batista de Abreu recording] I am not really convinced that going to the IMF would take the country into recession. I believe that maintaining our economy in its current state may cause hyperinflation and an unprecedented recession. I think this is the time to impartially analyze whether going to the IMF would be good or bad for the country. [end recording]

The new minister expressed special concern over the public deficit. He pointed out that he will contact Finance Minister Mailson da Nobrega to discuss an economic policy that strickly obeys what is forecast in the budget.

Minister de Abreu believes an increased public deficit may lead the country to hyperinflation and even political instability. Minister de Abreu also believes the 1988 elections will not necessarily be too expensive for the country.

Chile

1 Dead, 20 Injured in Valparaiso Bomb Attack

PY202300 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 20 Jan 88

[Text] A terrorist attack that took place this afternoon in Valparaiso resulted in 1 death and 20 persons injured. Extremists detonated a high-power bomb that had been left under a chair in the waiting room of the office of a doctor who treats pensioners of the National Defense Employees Pension Fund.

The explosion shook the port of Valparaiso. Twenty wounded persons were taken from the ruins of the pension fund's premises, located at 1410 Brazil Street. Six of the 20 persons are in very serious condition, including a 2- year-old child.

The injured persons were rushed to Valparaiso's Public Hospital, (Banguren) Hospital, and the Navy hospital.

Mrs Berta Pardo Munoz, 64, died of her wounds at the Public Hospital. A medical emergency was declared in the port while the injured were arriving at the hospitals. Another 30 persons who were on the premises at the time of the explosion did not suffer any injuries.

Fifth Region intendent Mario Sepulveda termed the extremist attack against the premises of the pension fund as the work of swine. He reported that the 20 wounded persons are receiving the best medical attention.

Valparaiso's prefect of Carabineros has confirmed that the bomb was left in the doctor's waiting room.

CNI, Investigative Police, and Carabineros personnel have begun a vast operation in the Fifth Region seeking the perpetrators of this terrorist attack that resulted in 1 death and 20 persons injured.

Doctors are trying hard to save the life of Rossana Barreira Munoz, who is only 18 months old.

Inflation, Unemployment Figures Reported

PY121833 Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 6 Jan 88 p 15

[Excerpts] Luis Gatica, operations director of the National Institute of Statistics [INE], yesterday reported that the consumer price index rose 0.3 percent for the month of December 1987, which means the annual inflation for 1987 reached 21.5 percent.

In comparison, the CPI for December 1986 rose 1.5 percent, while the annual inflation for 1986 reached 17.4 percent. [passage omitted]

INE Labor Statistics Director Eduardo Carrasco also reported yesterday that the national unemployment rate dropped from 9.6 percent to 8.5 percent in the months of September-October-November 1987. The unemployment rate in the Metropolitan area dropped from 12.3 percent to 10.4 percent during the same period. [passage omitted]

According to the INE, the labor force for those 3 months numbered 4,316,000 people, of whom 3,950,400 had jobs, which means 365,600 were unemployed. [passage omitted]

Colombia

Barco Speaks on Policy Regarding Law, Order

PA191350 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0230 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Speech by President Virgilio Barco; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] Fellow countrymen: Yesterday I talked to you about some social change projects implemented during this initial period of my administration. I have been conservative in the use of this media, but I believe it is my duty as president to give detailed information to all Colombians. In this way, citizens throughout Colombia can observe and judge the government's actions.

Today I will explain our social change policy regarding human settlements. In view of the country's circumstances and the trust that many persons have in the supposed effectiveness of the state of siege, I must report to my fellow countrymen, in this brief speech, the legal limitations that for some time have been restricting the executive branch's capacity to act by taking special measures to confront the serious public order problems.

New and monstrous criminal acts are terrorizing Medellin. This is the time to demonstrate solidarity with all Antioquia, with all Antioquians, with all the residents of this region that has been an example of progress and solidarity for all Colombia. Medellin is in a state of emergency; this is how the government views the situation. The local officials have taken new measures to put an immediate end to the alarming chain of incidents and the state of anxiety that our countrymen are naturally experiencing in that vigorous region. The police forces and the security and intelligence systems continue to be strengthened in such a manner that, with the solidarity always characteristic of Antioquians, we will be able to eradicate, sooner rather than later, these serious signs of disorder.

The existence of a group that—like drug traffickers—has enormous amounts of money, armed protection by a private army, and the complicity of some officials poses a total challenge to our institutions, our traditions, and our values. It is a small but powerful group that unhesitatingly uses bribery to gain legal favors. If they find

resistance, they resort to intimidation; and if this does not work, they resort to physical elimination, the elimination of obstacles through assassinations, and the most horrible of crimes.

Traditionally, those ruling the country had legal instruments to control these kind of situations, and they imposed a state of siege. However, there was use and abuse of the state of siege. Regulations that sought to prevent such abuses were established since the first National Front government. In the 1968 reforms the economic state of emergency was decreed, as established by Article 122 of the Constitution, to prevent the adoption of some economic and social measures by using the state of siege. Beginning on this date, the honorable Supreme Court of Justice has issued contradictory rulings concerning the scope of the special powers granted to these two institutions.

Concerning the economic state of emergency, in one of the cases, the court ruled the economic reforms were legal and thus the reforms on taxes could be made. In another case, the court ruled the reforms were illegal. With the state of siege—which is a fundamental instrument in dealing with public order problems—the court has issued a series of rulings that have virtually eliminated the practical side of the state of siege.

The public should be aware of this significant event in the evolution of our institutions. The example of the recent Supreme Court stance will serve to inform Colombians with regard to what has actually occurred, and how this government has systematically been denied the use of this special legal instrument people have been demanding, as if the state of siege would allow us to return to the past.

The state of siege today is different from the state of siege that traditionally existed in Colombia. The powers granted to the president have been significantly reduced. The requirements the government must fulfill when it decrees a state of siege are more strict than before.

Article 121 of the Constitution has been amended. These changes are not a result of a modification of the text of Article 121 on state of siege, but rather of a change in the Supreme Court of Justice jurisprudence, which the government respects and obeys. This is the duty of the state, although the government believes this ruling is not suitable and is excessive and unjustified. The Supreme Court of Justice has declared unconstitutional at least 10 state of siege decrees issued by the government. Let me mention the most significant cases:

To facilitate better trials for drug traffickers, and to correct some deficiencies in the ordinary penal system, the government, based on a very old tradition, issued a state of siege decree, transferring to the military courts the handling of drug trafficking crimes. The court changed its jurisprudence and annulled the decree.

To make clear the repulsive crimes perpetrated against political leaders, journalists, and labor and civic groups leaders, the government issued a state of siege decree and appointed a special tribunal to investigate such crimes, based on a similar measure adopted by former President Belisario Betancur following the holocaust at the Justice Palace. The court, however, annulled the decree.

Several years ago, violence in all its forms had prevailed in Uraba. The government issued a legislative decree to face this situation, seeking to preserve public order. This measure was also abolished. In some cases, and in extreme circumstances, the government has issued state of siege decrees that could be questioned because of vagueness of the subject matter.

However, in the majority of cases, the state of siege measures collapsed because of changes in jurisprudence. Recently, when the court declared unconstitutional the state of siege decree establishing life insurance for judges—who are today besieged by intimidation and threats—a magistrate who disagreed with this decision stated that the court was getting into too many details and that if they continued to implement the new state of siege rulings, the president's authority would be curtailed and he would be almost powerless until congress took steps to correct this matter.

Which of these new laws [changes thought] ...To avoid any misrepresentations about the Supreme Court of Justice's decision, I would like to quote a few paragraphs from these rulings. Citizens interested in finding a realistic and legal solution to the serious public order situation should be familiar with these rulings.

Previously, the government had all the necessary authority through a state of siege to implement measures that would lead to the restoration of public order, providing the Constitution was respected. The court has now ruled the Constitution is violated if the president exercises his authority—in accordance with Article 121—without having specific authorization in the laws, the Constitution, or people's rights, even if the measures taken have a direct and immediate relation to public order disturbances.

In addition, the court has ruled that the authority given by the Constitution must clearly flow from its text. One power lost by government because of this ruling is the right to assign civilians—drug traffickers and terrorists—to military courts. According to the court, Article 61 of the Constitution is not precise in authorizing that a legislative decree can simultaneously be used by a person or corporation for judicial and military authorities. [as heard] According to the new court rulings, it is not enough that the measures taken be in some way related to the causes that made it necessary to declare a state of siege, nor that the measures be directed toward correcting the root cause or the immediate effects of public order problems. The court has stated that the measures taken under the state of siege must be directly

and immediately related to the cause of the public order disturbance. Furthermore, decrees cannot order actions to correct remote or indirect causes of a normal situation to ward off future disturbances.

Moreover, according to the court, the government can no longer dictate norms related to public order to confront a situation more rapidly than through the application of the ordinary, existing statutes. The court has ruled that when the government's objectives can be attained with the existing laws, it should do so and not appeal to the state of siege measure. This ruling must be applied even if, in the government's judgment, the desired objective cannot be attained with the urgency required to ensure public order. Such was the case with the government's decree that sought to establish telephone service to conflict-ridden zones as quickly as possible to contribute to citizens' security.

Furthermore, and always according to the court, the government decrees can only suspend existing laws that clash with the very validity of the state of siege in terms related to the simultaneous application of or with measures that are urgently required to avoid a public order crisis that may be afflicting the country.

It is advisable to mention two other requirements that should apparently be met by the government after making the basic changes in the legal interpretations of the state of siege, to quote a magistrate when describing some of the changes I am mentioning today.

The court has insisted: It is not correct to use the powers provided by Article 121 of the Constitution to rule in socieconomic matters if crises exist that are regulated according to Article 122 of the economic emergency. This quote is taken from the ruling declaring unconstitutional the decree that tried to counter the social and economic causes of the violence prevailing in the area of Uraba.

The government is not trying to disavow the court or ask the court to overlook the differences between the state of siege and the economic emergency that were established by the 1986 constitutional amendment. It is not surprising that two magistrates of the court expressed their disagreement with the ruling and said that the interpretation of the state of siege cannot be so strict that it ignores the reality of the war the country is enduring.

In another ruling, the court insisted that the powers of the government cannot extend or broaden the basis of old or permanent problems that, by themselves, are not part of the public order crisis whose elimination is sought. This theory has not been fully developed by the court, but it is not appropriate in a country such as Colombia where the public order problems that we have always endured have deep roots in a distant past.

Another requirement that must be emphasized has to do with the principle of the separation of powers. The state of siege—in Colombia and in other countries of the world—is considered an exception to this principle. By virtue of the state of siege, the president assumes legislative powers that normally correspond to the work of Congress. In one of the rulings that form part of the new interpretations by the court, it was said that by extending the decree to accelerate the purchase of telecommunications equipment and services for the areas in conflict, there had been an encroachment of the legislative functions; that is, of Congress. Therefore, this was a violation of the articles in the Constitution having to do with separation of powers.

Is it that the executive branch cannot encroach upon Congress, even under a state of siege? That is precisely the instrument that temporarily grants the executive branch legislative powers. This is a question—along with many other questions that arise from the new interpretations of Article 121 of the Constitution—that has not been clearly answered by the new legal interpretations.

I feel these rulings dated 5 March, 19 May, and 4 June 1987—and others I have not mentioned although they are inspired by the sincere desire to prevent the abuses that had been committed based on Article 121 of the national Constitution—have changed the instrument of the state of siege.

The declaration of a state of emergency has ceased being an instrument granting special powers to the president of the republic. Those powers are used to face a crisis situation, the consequences of which could be much more serious for the survival of the state than the granting of temporary, unlimited powers to the president.

Although it is true this new law has not been consolidated and some of the government's state of emergency decrees have not been canceled, it is necessary to admit that the capacity of the executive branch to handle public order has been significantly reduced.

The state must defend itself with the laws. It is difficult, very difficult, to do, but that has been our history; that has been the behavior of the Western democracies that have been forced to face various forms of terrorism. Illegal actions deprive the government of its legitimacy and justify the barbarous actions of those who want to impose their own law.

The constitutional amendment to Article No 121, which distinguishes the various kinds of public disturbances and therefore marks the various methods to control such situations, is under discussion at the national Congress. However, its approval or rejection takes two regular session periods. Thus, it is clearly a procedure that does not agree with our current needs.

Denying a legal state of siege in order to defend democracy is not a happy measure. Carrying out de facto actions to overcome difficult and complex situations is giving up democratic principles. That is not the line of the Liberal Party.

Our dictatorial nightmare was buried on 10 May 1957. Therefore, invoking the Constitution, which separates the state branches and establishes harmonic cooperation among them, I very respectfully urge the honorable Supreme Court of Justice to consider our current needs in a different way and give back to the executive branch its capacity to act, which will be fully used for a prompt and effective control of the public order situation.

The firm, democratic vocation of the Colombian people can neither decrease nor decline now that it is most needed.

Good night and see you tomorrow.

Paraguay

Colorado Party Leader Criticizes Abram Remarks

PY140251 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 13 Jan 88 p 9

[Excerpt] Jose Eugenio Jacquet, president of the electoral affairs committee and 3d vice president of the Colorado Party Executive Board, flatly disagrees with Elliott Abrams' remarks about the Paraguayan political situation. Jacquet said that "Abrams' opinions mean nothing to us."

Abrams expressed his opinion about Paraguay in a report published by the U.S. Department of State. These remarks were made public in Paraguay through USIS. Among other things, Abrams commented on the presidential election that will be held on 14 February, saying that "this presidential election is meaningless because the polling stations are too controlled."

Jacquet not only rejected Abrams' opinions but also said that "the U.S. Government is running risks by having such a misinformed person occupying a high official position." Jacquet added: "How can he talk about what is going on here in Paraguay from a distance of 7,000 km. These people talk as if they were great clairvoyants."

Jacquet was also asked about the activities of irregular politicians who are reporting alleged agreements seeking to discredit the February presidential elections. Jacquet said that it is a campaign launched by a minority that is out of touch with Paraguay's current political situation. This minority is making it clear how they conducted elections in the past. When they had the opportunity in the past, they obviously made pacts, arrangements and rigged the elections. Nowadays, because of the proper attitude of the leaders of the Colorado Party, these methods have been rejected and it is unthinkable that we could arrange the results of the elections in advance." [passage omitted]

EL DIARIO Comments

PY182325 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 16 Jan 88 p 12

[Editorial: "The Big Stick Policy"]

[Text] Of late, we have been observing more frequent demonstrations of an agressive attitude and even of offensive interference by officials of the Great Nation to the North in the internal affairs of Latin American countries. Examples of this are there for everyone to see, despite the fact that international law contains precise and clear norms and rules condemning interference in the internal affairs of other countries. This is known as the doctrine of noninterference.

What is mentioned above has happened again with countries like Chile, Colombia, and more recently Paraguay, which have been the target of an attitude that apprently has not been discarded by some sectors of the U.S. Administration, despite the fact that the so-called "big stick policy" is no longer in vogue.

Chile has loudly protested before the pertinent organs of the OAS the exclusion of $60 million worth of export products from the Generalized System of Preferences over alleged noncompliance with accepted labor practices. In such protests, the head of the Chilean Foreign Ministry pointed out that the exclusion is nothing but a form of illegitimate pressure to force a change in the political orientation of his government.

Almost at the same time, the Colombian Government denounced, with equal energy, U.S. policy, charging the United States with practicing what Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono termed an "unjust, arbitrary, and unwarranted policy contrary to principles of international law." This reaction was elicited by the discriminatory measures adopted by the United States against Colombian citizens and export products in reprisal for the decision by a Colombian court to release a drug trafficking suspect. To protest this immoderate pressure, the Government of Colombia has reportedly requested the OAS to meet and hear its arguments against that despicable attitude.

Finally, along the same line with regard to the U.S. attitude, we find the stunning statement made a few days ago by Mr Elliott Abrams, assistant secretary of State for inter-Ameican affairs, about the situation in our country. This statement was widely carried by the media and elicited varied reactions in political circles.

The facts briefly commented on above give the picture of a state which feels strong and has the right to meddle, through any means, in the internal affairs of other states

in the continental community. This is not only dangerous, but unacceptable. This meddling cannot and should not be tolerated. To shield us from this danger and to forestall practices that can undermine the sovereingty of states, an entire doctrine of international law has been patiently and strenuously put together. The North Americans, who want to lecture on political and social systems, should be the first to respect such law and act in accordance with such law.

The U.S. Administration officials must then seriously think about the policy they are following. Otherwise, we can only assume that the "big stick policy" is being renewed.

Congressmen Prevented From Visiting Deputy

PY081253 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 7 Jan 88 p 7

[Text] Recounting his experience in the city of Ypacarai yesterday afternoon, an experience shared by [dissident Colorado Party leaders] Dr Angel Roberto Seifart and Artemio Castillo, Dr Persio da Silva Pane has said: "We have been the victims of unwarranted abuse. We were held for a while at the Ypacarai police station just because we wanted to pay a courtesy visit to our fellow party member, Deputy Luis A. Becker."

Da Silva Pane said: "We did not know that Becker's house had been surrounded. We saw several policemen and a plainclothesman patrolling a sector near the railroad station. We approached Becker's house and our presence was obviously reported because a police platoon arrived and took us to the local police station where our documents were seized. After a few minutes we were ordered to leave the police station with express instructions not to try to fulfill our objective. We were told: "Becker cannot leave, and no one can enter his house."

"Our congressional immunity has not been respected and the basic rights as citizens have again been openly violated," Da Silva Pane concluded.

Colorados Kept From Visiting Jailed Youths

PY071545 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 7 Jan 88 p 9

[Text] Several Colorado Party Traditionalist faction leaders yesterday tried, without success, to talk with four Traditionalist youth leaders who are being held incommunicado in the former Security Police Detention Center, now called the Police Specialized Group Center [Agrupacion Especializada de la Policia]. The youth leaders in question are Roberto Arias Penayo, Juan de la Cruz Bolanos, Hermogenes Vera, and Juan Frutos Barrientos. All of them were arrested in San Estanislao on 30 December.

Yesterday morning, Senator Persio da Silva, Deputy Angel Roberto Seifart, and Alberto Alderete, among others, visited the Detention Center to try to talk with the youth leaders. They were unsuccessful, as we said before, because the youths remain incommunicado.

"This is another example of the arbitrariness, injustice, and constant abuse of power by national officials who wrongly believe that arresting those who struggle for democracy will solve their political problems," Deputy Seifart said, upon withdrawing from the Center. "We get stronger and tougher every time our friends receive a new blow," Seifart said.

"There is no justification for depriving these youths of their freedoms, and even less justification for holding them incommunicado," Senator da Silva said. "This is excessive repression. It is a violation of their constitutional rights," Da Silva added.

Alderete said they will continue "to denounce this kind of incident" because they "are an attack on human rights and individual freedoms, which are guaranteed by the Constitution."

Communique Repudiates Arrests

PY091559 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 9 Jan 88 p 10

[Text] The Colorado Nationalist Alliance [ANC], a faction of the Traditionalist Movement, has released a communique repudiating the arrests of four youths, one of them an ANC member.

The communique, signed by Ismael Echague, says that "this persecution now directed at us was experienced in the past by our fathers due to their love of country and party. We realize that the struggle is not easy, but, just as our fathers suffered hardships for being in the opposition, we, their sons, are willing to lay down our lives if necessary to bequeath to future generations the glory of Coloradoism now in the opposition."

The communique publicly denounces "the arrests of Roberto Arias Penayo, a member of the ANC of the Colorado Youth, and of Juan de la Cruz Bolanos, Hermogenes Vera, and Juan Frutos Barrientos." The communique also criticizes the "arbitrary arrest" of Luis Alberto Gorosito, a MOPOCO youth leader.

Uruguay

Military 'Alert' for Argentine Asylum Petitions

PY200047 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1416 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Montevideo, 19 Jan (EFE)—Uruguayan military units have been instructed to be on the alert for possible petitions for asylum in the wake of the rebellion of former Lieutenant Colonel Aldo Rico, an Argentine

citizen. All Uruguayan political forces have rejected the rebellion and have expressed their support for the constitutional government of the neighboring country.

The Defense Ministry today confirmed that it has instructed all its units to safeguard "any Argentine citizen, regardless of his sentiments," who asks for protection in Uruguayan territory.

The rebellion by former Lt Col Rico, which ended yesterday with his surrender, occurred in Monte Caseros, only a few kilometers from the Uruguayan town of Bella Union, some 490 km north of Montevideo.

The defense minister, Lieutenant General Hugo Medina, retired, has told the Uruguayan daily EL PAIS that "historically, petitions for protection have been filed whenever similar problems have occurred in Argentina, and Uruguay has never rejected them."

Medina said: "In light of the information available in the country, we have asked all units to allow Argentine citizens who ask for protection to enter the country and to be as courteous as possible to them. They will then be placed at the disposal of the Foreign Ministry."

The Defense Ministry has so far not reported any petitions for "protection."

According to government sources, both the Interior Ministry and the Foreign Ministry have been alerted to possible petitions for asylum by Argentine citizens. Discreet surveillance was conducted on the border during the rebellion.

The rebels who supported Rico were involved in a shoot-out with forces loyal to the government of President Raul Alfonsin. According to the government in Buenos Aires, one officer and one noncommissioned officer were wounded before the former lieutenant colonel surrendered.

Elsewhere, all Uruguayan political forces have expressed their rejection of Rico's rebellion and their solidarity with the government of President Alfonsin.

Victor Cortazzo, president of the Uruguayan Chamber of Deputies, has said: "We feel completely integrated with the Argentine Government and the Argentine people." According to Cortazzo, Rico "created an almost chaotic situation for Argentina and for the democratic world, especially in Latin America."

Senator Americo Ricaldoni, a member of the ruling Colorado Party and the Senate International Relations Commission, has said that the Argentine crisis "apparently will not be overcome by merely inflicting a military defeat on the rebels. It will indeed require a very difficult and strenuous effort by President Alfonsin. I expect him to receive the support he needs."

Senator Luis Alberto Lacalle has said: "It is essential for this presidential term to be completed to fully acknowledge President Alfonsin's authority. We hope that this episode will conclude with the reaffirmation of civilian rule."

Senator Francisco Rodriguez Camusso, a member of the left-wing coalition Broad Front, the country's third-leading political force, has said: "I hope that the government elected by the people will finally be able to bring into line those who, motivated by ill-advised ambitions, wish to replace it."

Colorado Senator Jorge Batlle stated: "The Argentine military crisis is the result of mistreated evils." He added: "This crisis will be overcome as long as all the cases are resolved with a view to the future, not the past."

Senator Dardo Ortiz, member of the National Party, has said that Alfonsin "should take advantage of this opportunity to firmly exact obedience from the Armed Forces."

Broad Front Deputy Yamandu Fau has said: "The military men should be given no other alternative but to obey."

Official sources have said that Uruguayan President Julio Maria Sanguinetti yesterday telephoned Alfonsin to remain posted on events and to express his solidarity with and his support for Alfonsin.

Guyana

President Hoyte States Position on Haiti

FL181614 Bridgetown CANA in English 2251 GMT 17 Jan 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 17, CANA—President Desmond Hoyte said Saturday night that the declaration issued at the end of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) leaders meeting in Barbados on January 6, represents a serious and responsible attempt by Caricom states to adopt a non-interventionist, but constructive and realistic approval to the Haitian problem.

In a broadcast to the nation, Hoyte also reaffirmed Guyana's three-pronged position on Haiti.

First, in keeping with a fundamental foreign policy principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, Guyana will not interfere in the internal affairs of Haiti.

Second, Guyana is opposed to any invasion of Haiti, or any interference or intervention in her internal affairs, or any violation of her independence and sovereignty by any foreign power. Guyana would not join with or encourage others to do any of these things.

Third, Guyana believes that it is the business and duty of the Haitian people to resolve their own problems and that they should be left in peace to work out their own salvation, Hoyte said in his broadcast on state radio.

He confirmed that Guyana received an invitation from Haiti's foreign minister to send a mission to observe today's elections but explained that while the Guyana Government thanked the Haitian authorities for their kind invitation it informed them that it was obliged to decline.

He noted that when the government of Nicaragua invited Guyana to send an observer mission to the elections in Nicaragua in November 1984, the Guyana Government had also declined.

We refrain from becoming enmeshed in the internal processes of any other country—in this case, even at the country's request. For us this is fundamental foreign policy doctrine. We will not depart from it under any circumstances, the Guyanese president stressed.

Explaining his reasons for attending the January 6 consultation, he said he adheres to the view that if the chairman of the conference of heads of government convenes a meeting on a matter which he deems to have implications, he has a duty as a general rule to attend if it is convenient for him to do so.

In addition, it could not be considered unreasonable for Caricom heads to consult on the situation in Haiti to ascertain, among other things, whether it could conceivably pose a threat to or impinge on the vital interests of the Caribbean Community in certain of whose standing committees Haiti has observer status.

In either case, it might be appropriate for Caricom to formulate a coordinated response Hoyte pointed out.

He stressed that the declaration issued at the end of the meeting was arrived at by concensus, which in Caricom means unanimity.

He pointed out however, that it as often in the nature of agreements so reached, that it does not necessarily, in its entirety, reflect fully the position of every participant.

Our declaration was no exception. Some participants had different points of view on certain aspects, but in the end, they all concurred in the interest of consensus, the Guyanese president remarked.

He said that as Guyana understood it, an overriding concern in Barbados was Haiti's independence and sovereignty should be respected by all and no attempt be made or be seen to be made to dictate to the Haitian people or to further endanger Haiti's independence and sovereignty in the name of trying to safeguard them; in short Caricom should not interfere in Haiti's internal affairs.

He added, moreover, the views emerged that it would be futile, self-defeating and unhelpful to issue denunciations and threats against Haiti. In any event as one delegation leader queried, did Caricom have a capability to enforce any threat that was meaningful?

President Hoyte said the problems which Haiti faces today, cannot be properly understood by examining them merely in the context of the events of recent years.

From the time Dessalines promulgated the Republic in 1804, Haiti was never allowed to develop in peace. Throughout its history the country has been bullied, threatened, bombarded, invaded, and occupied by foreign powers.

In these circumstances, the development of its political institutions was stunted and distorted, and conditions conducive to the evolution of representative government, were never favourable for long he added.

He said the Caricom Caribbean leaders were satisfied that Haiti now has an opportunity to place its sad past behind it for good and they thought that the opportunity of a new beginning should not be lost.

We believed it to be important that present attitudes should be informed more by a vision of the future towards which all Haitians aspire, rather than by the misfortunes of the past, he said.

He said Guyana is not unmindful of the tremendous difficulties which the people of Haiti are encountering and the obstacles which they face as they seek to realise their objective of preserving their independence and promoting their economic wellbeing within a framework of stable representative government and constitutionality.

In addition, Guyana stands ready to participate in any Caricom initiative to help Haiti in the achievement of its national development objectives, provided the Haitian authorities so request, but Guyana will not gratuitously interfere, Hoyte remarked.

He noted that in response to an invitation from Prime Minister Edward Seaga of Jamaica asking him to attend a meeting on Haiti, last October, he had explained to Seaga that apart from the inconvenience of the timing, his position has always been that Caricom states should be willing to provide a coordinated programme of assistance once a request has been made by Haiti.

He said he had also told Seaga that of course, each one of us is free to take action and assist Haiti, on a bilateral basis.

The Guyanese people, he added, remain committed to such a course of action.

Hoyte said: We hope that notwithstanding the difficulties, the people of Haiti will ultimately be successful in their efforts to reorganise their political and constitutional arrangements and remould their country nearer to their hearts' desire.

To this end, we hope that they would find the political will, the strength and the wisdom. We wish them well.

Vigil on Haiti, Amendment Announced

FL172103 Bridgetown CANA in English 2025 GMT 16 Jan 88

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Jan 16, CANA—The Patriotic Coalition for Democracy (PCD) was scheduled on Saturday night to hold the first of three vigils being staged over the next few days to call attention to the Haitian political crisis and to protest the Guyana government's move to amend the constitution.

A spokeswoman for the five-party opposition grouping said the first vigil to be held outside the offices of the Caricom Secretariat would begin at 23:00 hrs (local time) and end at 06:00 hrs on Sunday. She said the main purpose of the first vigil being held on the controversial elections in Haiti, was to protest the elections being held by the Namphy-led military government.

The second vigil will also be held outside the offices of the Caricom Secretariat housed in the Bank of Guyana building in down town, Georgetown. The third will be staged outside Parliament buildings where the constitution amendment bill is to be tabled shortly.

The controversial bill seeks to amend the Guyana Constitution in the wake of a recent ruling by the Guyana Court of Appeal striking down two sections of an act of parliament, the Labour (amendment) Act, as being unconstitutional.

Parties grouped under the banner of the PCD—The Peoples Progressive Party, the Working Peoples Alliance, the Peoples Democratic Movement, the Democratic Labour Movement and the National Democratic Front—have launched a ban the bill campaign.

According to the PCD spokeswoman, the PCD intends to maintain some level of protest activity until the bill comes up for debate in the National Assembly.

Suriname

Discussions Underway on New Government

FL161625 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Activities have started today for the formation of the new government. Yesterday, Assembly Chairman Jaggernath Lachmon exhorted President-elect Shankar and his deputy-elect Henck Arron to begin the formation exercises. Included in the exercise are discussions with interest groups as the labor movement, religious organizations, and trade and industry. Discussions will also be held with potential candidates for ministerial positions. These talks will be conducted in consultation with the political party which has nominated candidates for positions. The installation of President Shankar will take place on January 25th, while the new government will be installed a day latter.

Shankar Begins Talks

FL191915 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] President-Elect Shankar and Vice President-Elect Henck Arron yesterday began talks with functional groupings in the society. The talks, which will continue throughout this week, are aimed at formulating the new government's policy, said spokesman (Glen Terry Dumont).

He said that the talks have been informative and held in a confidential atmosphere. (Terry Dumont) said that yesterday's discussions were held with among others, Acting President Fred Ramdat-Misier, Chairman of the National Assembly Jaggernath Lachmon, the directors of the private media houses, the National Human Rights Institute, and the trade and industry sector.

Today talks will be held with political parties, the labor movement, the Association of Bankers, insurance companies, and the Association of Medical Practitioners.

According to Pretaap Radhakishun, who was especially assigned secretary for the talks, the installation of the new government will take place shortly after the inauguration of the president. The president will be installed next Monday.

Peace Activists 'Indignant' at Bouterse Remarks

FL191927 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 19 Jan 88

[Text] Activists of the Organization for Justice and Peace yesterday morning presented a petition to Assembly Chairman Jaggernath Lachmon in protest against (?urgencies) made by Commander Bouterse.

The organization is indignant of the fact that Bouterse has rejected every mediation attempt with the terrorists. The petition further states that all offers aimed at ending the fightings in eastern Suriname should be seriously considered.

Last week, Commander Bouterse had rejected an offer from Holland to mediate between the Suriname Government and the Brunswijk Gang. He is of the opinion that Holland should stop supporting the terrorists if it calls itself a friendly nation.

Assembly Chairman Lachmon promised that the petition would receive his attention.

Other Leaders on Offer

FL161637 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Assembly Chairman Lachmon is of the opinion that the solution to the fighting in the interior must not affect the dignity of the Surinamese people nor the sovereignty of the nation. Lachmon was reacting to the proposal of Dutch Prime Minister Lubbers, who offered to mediate in the conflict. A few days ago, Commander Bouterse stated that Holland doesn't have to mediate.

Foreign Minister Heidweiller is also unhappy with the proposal. Heidweiller said that Holland has been too involved in the conflict and thinks that a South American country would be a better mediator.

Unionists Take Minister, 10 Employees Hostage

FL161650 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Negotiations between the trade union movement and the management of the Ministry of Transport, Trade, and Industry were stopped on Tuesday [12 January] when employees took Minister (?Ramat Raider) and 10 of his staff members hostage. The management of the ministry was forced to summon assistance from the Ministry of Army and Police which dispatched a party of policemen to the office to rescue the staff. Minister (?Raider) has filed an official complaint and sent a letter to the civil service organization complaining about the behavior of the trade union leaders in his ministry. The management has refused to negotiate further with the union if the behavior is not corrected publicly and the civil service organization does not disassociate itself from their action. The labor movement and the ministry had already reached an agreement with the management but negotiations were still underway on priorities and implementing some of the agreements. These talks are now stagnated because of what the management terms "the unacceptable behavior of the two union leaders."